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If there is one thing we all have in common, it is a need to express ourselves. For some folks in Wyoming that need gets met every time they tune in to National Public Radio's[®] The Thistle & Sharrock[®] show, which airs Saturday evenings on Wyoming Public Radio. (Just tune in to 91.9 on your FM dial.)

Now aside from having a need to express themselves, NPR also has a rather urgent need to be heard. Which begins to explain why they're such keen users of Microsoft® Word 60.

The simple fact is, NPR is all about intelligent communication. So it stands to reason that they'd use an intelligent word processor. Especially if they were trying to do something like show the station that a Celtic music program could





be the biggest thing to hit Chugwater since the blizzard of '69.

For such a job they'd surely want to add charts and graphs. They'd want to drag stuff from one document and drop it into another. They'd want automatic formatting. They'd want to whip up a table of contents. Simply put, they'd want to make their point so well that the station's stuff would be happy to change their programming. And why shouldn't they be? NPR already knewhow it would make their listeners feel.

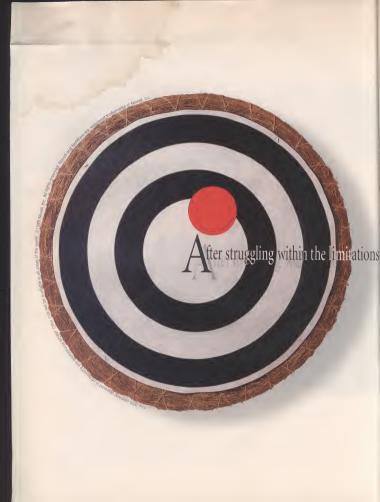
Of course we're not going to say Chugwater would have turned into a cultural wasteland if it weren't for The Thistle & Shamrock show. We're just saying that the more clearly you get your point across, the more likely it'll be heard. (Something to think about next time you're looking for a raise.)

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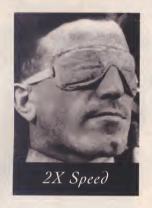
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- Compare Startup & INI Files
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PLUS: Recovery That Works EVEN WHEN Windows Won't!!!

WINDOWS





Win'95 Advisor

Win'95 Advisor rates your hardware for Windows 95 compatibility. Based on your rating, Win'95 Advisor makes recommendations and prepares your system for a fast, safe, easy installation.



Before You Upgrade... Use this FIRST!

- Tests Your Windows 3.1 System
- for Windows 95 Readiness

 Prepares Your System for a Safe/Easy Upgrade
- Checks for Hardware and Software Compatibility
 Provides Step-By-Step Recommendations
- Saves Time by Automating Windows 95 Installation

Bonus: Before & After Performance Comparisons

Runs on Windows

For More Information Call:

TouchStone 1-800-932-5566 (ext 220)

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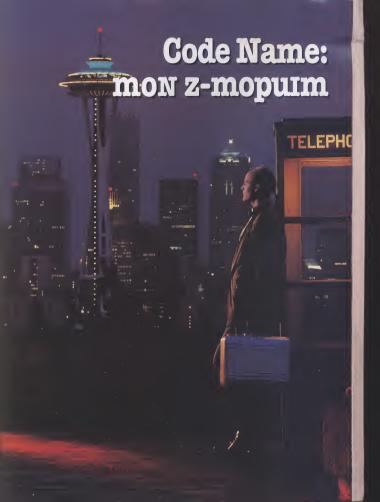
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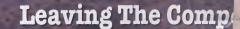
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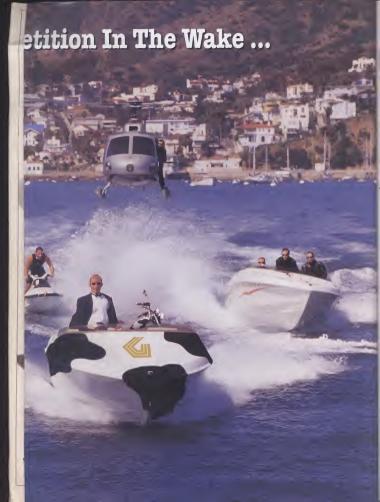
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Agent 2000 Is On A Mission! The fourney begins with the competition in hot pursuit. But it will take a lot more han the veget to overtake Agent 2000. The perfect combination of speed and power give Agent 2000 the outstanding performance to stay ahead of the pack. "I know just the trick," thinks 2000. And with that, the 133-horsepower icks in, leaving the competitors in the dust.



Speeding to the coast, Agent 2000 senses more danger. Sure enough, lying it want under the pier are more soloues! Thinking fast Agent 2000 sails the bike into a passing leat. Then with a splash of incomparable speed and performance, Agent 2000 is quickly leagues ahead of the competition. "So long, shark baitl" calls 2000.





The exchange went off without a hitch. Soon the city lights would be far behind. At dawn, Agent 2000 must begin the journey back. When the metallic briefcase is safely returned to head-quarters in North Sioux City, South Dakota, the mission will be complete. The happiness of computer users everywhere is at stake. For in the briefcase is Gateway 2000's Secret Code—a new way to bring all PC users the latest computer technology at the best value on the planet. Undaunted by thoughts of the competitors' plans to thwart the mission, Agent 2000 keeps cool and races ahead to ensure all Gateway 2000 customers tomorrow's technology today.

The Best Performance

Gateway 20008°s dossier is filled with accounts of great feats to bring PC users the latest computer technology and unmatched performance. It's our strategy to ensure all Gateway customers the tools to take them far into the future.

P5-133XL!

In a quest that took us to the ends of the earth, we brought you "Fastest PC in the Word" — Gateway's P5-120XL (May 1995, PC/Computing). Now we've outdone ourselves by introducing the Gateway 2000 P5-133XL, a computer that's significantly faster than the fastest PC in the world! Equipped with a 133MHz Intel® Pentium® processor, 16MB EDO performance-enhanced memory, 256K pipelined burst cache, 162GB IDE hard drive with Mode 4 support, Matrox® MGA™ Millennium™ 2MB WRAM (Windows RAM) graphics accelerator and a 4X three-CD changer, this machine is powerful and fast enough to navigate you through any risky computing situation!

Matrox MGA Millennium

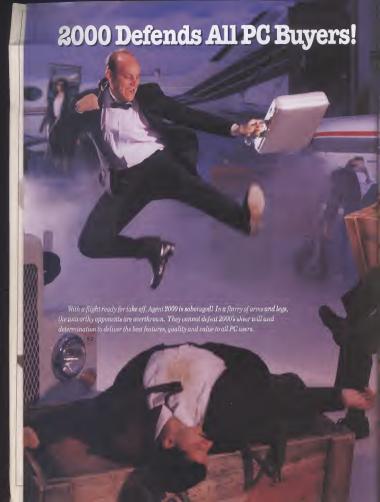
It's no secret, if you want graphics that come alive the Matrox MGA Millennium is the graphics accelerator for you! Using the latest in video and memory technology, the MGA combines a highly integrated 64-bit graphics accelerator featuring 3-D acceleration and video playback with WRAM, a fast dual-ported video memory for increased video performance. It's perfect for use with upcoming 32-bit Windows 95 applications, multimedia software or 3-D intensive applications.

EDO (Extended-Data-Out) Memory

The next time you've masterminded an unforgestable plot, you'll want plenty of memory to back you up. EDO performanceenhanced memory gives you high-speed memory for your memoryintensive graphics, demanding number-crunching applications and future multi-tasking environments like Windows' 95. And the combination of EDO memory and pipelined burst cache, on 120MHz and 133MHz systems, gives you the latest memory technology and the performance of next-generation cache, increasine system performance to 120 percent?









The Best Features

Gateway 2000® beats the competition to the punch with the world's best features!

TelePath 28.8™ Fax/Modem Communication Center

Access a world of information at the touch of a button using the TelePath 28.8 fax/modem Communication Center. Standard or available as an upgrade on all Gateway desktop systems, the TelePath has a 28,800ps modem and a 14,400ps fax. Combined with the included FaxWorks stortware, it provides a complete Communication Center. You get an answering machine and access to today's online world. Also included with the TelePath 28.8 fax/modem Communication Center are trial memberships to CompuServe, America Online® and Prodigy.®

Software

You can have action and excitement for the whole family — and the tools to conquer all your special missions. Gateway outfits you with incomparable software applications on all our systems. Choose a Family PC" multimedia system and be transfixed by Gateway's new Generations Software Collection including 51 software programs! Professional Gateway PCs include Microsoft® Office Professional 4.3, the world's number-one selling software suite. And all Gateway desktop PCs include MS Windows® for Workgroups 3.11— the fastest version of Windows available (today).

Vivitron™ Monitors

Electric color, a razor-sharp focus and crystal clear images — all from a Gateway 15- or 17-inch Vivitron monitor! These monitors feature Sony® Trinitron® tube technology — technology that the most discerning viewers have relied on for decades.

The Best Service and Support

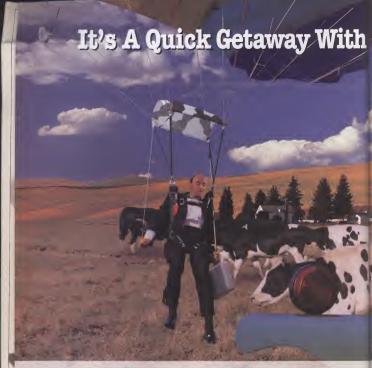
Gateway 2000 delivers another powerful blow to the competition by providing all our customers with award-winning, 10H-free technical support for the life of their Gateway system! All Gateway desktop systems and monitors are also covered by a three-year limited warranty. Write or call us for a free copy of our warranty.

The Best Quality

For nearly 10 years, Gateway 2000 has prevailed when it comes to bringing PC buyers the highest-quality computer components available — the best we can possibly offer. The evidence speaks for itself with the MS Mouse, Gateway's programmable Any Key® Keyboard, and of course, our trademark cow-spotted boxes!







The Best Portable PCs

Don't be fooled by stripped-down portables posing as great values. They'll just leave you up in the air without the performance that you really need. Outsmart them by choosing Gateway 2000°s's high-performance portables, the Liberty™ and ColorBook.2™ They 're loaded with the power to handle the increasing demands of today's (and borrow's) technology.

Performance

When your special assignments take you out in the field, have outstanding performance without anything to weigh you down. Free yourself with the 4.2-pound Gateway Liberty portable PC. The DX4-100 Best Buy model includes 100MHz of processing power with 256K L2 cache for Pentium® processor-like performance. Gateway also gives you plenty of RAM that will increase battery life and improve your overall system performance! With 24MB RAM and a 720MB hard drive, the Liberty DX4-100 Best Buy gives you the speed and power to run all your hard core applications without a snag.

Features

The Liberty's sleek 4.2-pound design delivers all the goods with a 10.4-inch screen, infrared technology, an impressive battery life and incredible software applications pre-installed.

The screen display on your portable should be a crucial buying factor. Our 10.4-inch color screen on the Liberty produces vivid





GATEWAY 2000@ LIBERTY~

- 4.2 Lbs., 10" x 8" x 1.6" ■ 10.4" DSTN Color Display
- 1MB Video RAM ■ Choice of Desktop IR Receptor
- or External Floppy Drive ■ Intel® 486 DX2 or DX4
- Processor ■ Instant On
- Battery & AC Pack ■ 2 PCMCIA Type II Slots
- EZ Point™ Integrated Pointer ■ Removable Hard Drive
- 78-Kev Kevboard ■ Parallel Serial VGA & PS/2®
- OAG® FlightDisk®, World Clock, & Ascend® personal
- use w/ Franklin Day Planner®
- MS-DOS® 6.22 & WFW 3.11 ■ Microsoft® Windows® 95
- Upgrade ■ Microsoft® Works for Windows™ 3.0 or MS Office Professional 4.3**

LIBERTY DX4-100 Base

10.4" DSTN Color Display, 8MB RAM, 340MB HD, MS Works \$2999

LIBERTY DX4-100 10.4" DSTN Color Display, 16MB RAM, 540MB HD, 256K L2 Cache.

MS Works \$3749

LIBERTY DX4-100

Best Buy 48-Hour OuickShip* 10.4" DSTN Color Display, 24MB RAM, 720MB HD, 256K L2 Cache, TelePath™ 14.4 XJACK® Fax/Modem, information manager (PIM) for Leather Carrying Case, Desktop IR Receptor, External Floppy Drive, MS

Office Professional 4.3*

\$4499

COLORBOOK2ⁿ

- 5.7 Lbs., 11.65" x 8.5" x 1.77" ■ 10.3" DSTN Color Display
- Intel 486 DX4 Processor ■ Minimum 8MB RAM (expand-
- able to 24MB) 1.5MB Video RAM (includes
- 512KB cache) Removable Hard Drive 3.5" Diskette Drive
- Integrated 16-Bit Sound and
- Speaker ■ Battery & AC Pack
- EZ Point Integrated Pointer
- 2 PCMCIA Type II Slots ■ 85-Kev Keyboard
- Parallel, Serial, VGA & PS/2 Ports ■ MS-DOS 6.22 & WFW 3.11
- Microsoft Windows 95 Ungrade ■ MS Works for Windows 3.0 or MS Office Professional 4.3**

COLORBOOK2 DX4-100

Deluxe 16MB RAM, 540MB HD, Pont

Replicator, Carrying Case, MS Office Professional 4.3**

\$3499

COLORBOOK2 DX4-100

Best Buy

24MB RAM, 720MB HD, TelePath 14.4 Fax/Modem, Carrying Case, CD-ROM, Port Replicator, MS Office Professional 4.3**

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LIBERTY PROFESSIONAL PACK

MS Office Professional 4.3 PCMCIA TelePath XIACK 14.4 Fax/Modem, Extra NiMH Battery, Leather Carrying Case \$449

*48-Hour QuickShip program applies only to the Liberty DX4-100 Best Buy configuration. Your PC will be delivered within two business days from the. time of order. No additions or deletions can be made to the configuration. Available for approved credit card orders only while quantities last. Domestic U.S. orders only. Call us for details about other QuickShip offers.

**MS Office Professional 4.3 includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint® presentation graphics program, and Access® database Available only at the

time of purchase.

SERVICE AND WARRANTY

- Lifetime portable-specific toll- Special VIP warranty, We'll free service and support
- One-year limited parts warranty. ■ 30-day money-back guarantee
- ship a replacement to you within
- 24 hours during warranty. Only available at the time of purchase for an additional \$100.

PERIPHERAL OPTIONS ■ Panasonic® KXL-D720 external

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When we last saw Agent 2000, a.k.a. Undercover Agent Monique, she had just arrived at Gateway 2000 headquarters with the metallic briefcase containing the Secret Code. Safely inside President Ted Waitt's office, she removed her mask and boldly revealed her true identity. They then waited for the time-release lock on the briefcase to open.

"Ted!" exclaimed Monique, "The timerelease lock has finally

opened!" Ted and Monique open the briefcase to find an encrypted CD. They quickly pop it into a CD-ROM drive and discover — "AZMESIMTGKCNMRXJ." "Quick Monique, this code is hot, hand me my code book! — Ah, here it is ..."

PC buyers, the wait is over! Microsoft² Windows² 95 is now included with every Gateway 2000 system at no extra cost, and it will be sent to you upon release. If you already own a Gateway PC, you can order a Windows 95 upgrade on CD today for only \$99!

Gateway 2000 has worked tirelessly to prepare for the unprecedented release of Windows 95. We've readied our product line by loading cutting-edge technology into value-packed systems optimally configured to run this new operating system.

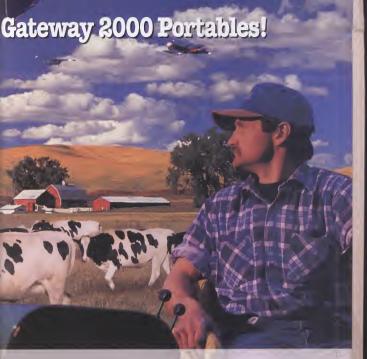
With Windows 95, your PC will become easier to use, faster and more powerful than ever before. And you can enjoy the benefits of true multtasking and "Plug and Play." We will provide toll-free Windows 95 technical support including installation, configuration and problem-resolution assistance to customers who purchase Windows 95 from Gateway. The best hardware to run Windows 95 combined with phenomenal service — a Windows 95 deal like this can only be found at Gateway 2000!

"Holy cow, Ted! Gateway's Windows 95 program is ground breaking, just like our next mission — making Gateway 2000 an industry leader in service and support. Extended service hours and next-day replacement parts are just the tip of the iceberg! Gateway's new service plan ..."

"Monique," interrupted Ted," there are two things I know for sure — Gateway 2000 is the best place to buy a PC on the planet, and the Secret Code is disintegrating and

eating a hole in my desk!"

8 0 0 - 8 4 6 - 2 0 6 2



color, brightness and clarity. You'll also find that the 10.4-inch screen has 23 percent more viewing area than a 9.4-inch screen, allowing you to see more spreadsheet cells, full word processing documents, and giving you the ability to read small fonts better.

The Gateway Liberry adds even more mobility with its infrared (IR) technology. Using wireless file transfer, you can transfer files between your Liberry and desktop for between two Liberry PCs!) without cables. IR is also important for tomorrow's portable computing needs. Windows® 95 was engineered with IR in mind, and IR-ready printers will be available soon.

Not enough battery life and suddenly your portable PC isn't much help! The Liberty gives you battery life of up to four hours or more with power management. It was also designed to be upgradable to lithium ion batteries.

The value of your Gateway portable PC goes up, up, up with pre-installed software applications. All Gateway portable PCs include Microsoft® Works for Windows® 3.0 or MS Office Professional 4.3 pre-installed. You also get the OAG® FlightDisk,® World Clock, and Ascend® software applications.

Looking for ways to make your getaways more productive? Call a Gateway 2000 portable sales representative today!

- Intel® 66MHz 486DX2 CPU*
- 8MB RAM
- 540MB 11ms IDE Hard Drive ■ PCI Enhanced IDE Interface
- PCI Local Bus Graphics with 1MB
- Altec[™] ACS-5 Speakers ■ TelePath™ 14.4 Fax/Modem
- Communication Center
- 3.5" Diskette Drive ■ 14° .28 CrystalScan® Color Monitor
- 7-Bay Deskton Case ■ 101-Key Keyboard & MS Mouse 2.0 ■ 15" .25dp Vivitron™ Color Monitor ■ MS-DOS® 6.22 & WFW 3.11
- Microsoft® Windows® 95 Upgrade 101-Key Keyboard & MS Mouse 2.0 101-Key Keyboard & MS Mouse 2.0 ■ MS-DOS 6.22 & WFW 3.11
- 3-Year Limited Parts Warranty

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P5-75 FAMILY PC P5-90 FAMILY PC

- Intel 75MHz Pentium® Processor* ■ Intel 90MHz Pentium Processor® ■ 8MB EDO Performance-Enhanced 8MB EDO Performance-Enhanced Memory Memory
- 1GB 10ms IDE Hard Drive ■ 1GB 10ms 1DE Hard Drive ■ PCI Enhanced IDE Interface ■ PCI Enhanced IDE Interface
- 2X CD-ROM, 16-Bit Sound Card & 32-Bit PCI Graphics Accelerator ■ 64-Bit PCI Graphics Accelerator
 - w/ 1MB DRAM w/2MR DRAM
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 - TelePath 28 8 Fax/Modem Communication Center
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 - 7-Bay Desktop Case
 - MS-DOS 6.22 & WFW 3.11 ■ Microsoft Windows 95 Upgrade ■ Microsoft Windows 95 Upgrade ■ M Generations Software Collection ■ M Generations Software Collection ■ 3-Year Limited Parts Warranty

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P5-100 FAMILY PC

- Intel 100MHz Pentium Processor* ■ 16MB EDO Performance-Enhanced Memory
- 1GB 10ms IDE Hard Drive
- PCI Enhanced IDE Interface ■ 64-Bit PCI Graphics Accelerator
- w/ 2MB DRAM ■ 4X 3-CD Changer, 16-Bit
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- Communication Center 3.5" Diskette Drive
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- 540MB 11ms IDE Hard Drive ■ PCI Enhanced IDE Interface
- PCI Local Bus Graphics with 1MB ■ 2X CD-ROM
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 14", 28 CrystalScan Color Monitor 4X CD-ROM ■ 7-Bay Desktop Case
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P5-75 ■ Intel 75MHz Pentium Processor* ■ 8MB EDO Performance-Enhanced

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Communication Center

3.5" Diskette Drive

■ 7-Bay Desktop Case

- Memory ■ 1GB 10ms IDE Hard Drive
- PCI Enhanced IDE Interface ■ 32-Bit PCI Graphics Accelerator
- w/ IMB DRAM
- 3.5" Diskette Drive ■ 101-Key Keyboard & MS Mouse 2.0 ■ 15" .25dp Vivitron Color Monitor
 - 7-Bay Desktop Case
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P5-133XI

P5-100 ■ Intel 100MHz Pentium Processor* ■ 16MB EDO Performance-Enhanced Memory

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- 64-Bit PCI Graphics Accelerator w/2MB DRAM
- 4X CD-ROM
- 3.5" Diskette Drive ■ 15" .25dp Vivitron Color Monitor
- 7-Bay Deskton Case ■ 101-Key Keyboard & MS Mouse 2.0 ■ AnyKey Keyboard & MS Mouse 2.0
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 - Bookshelf & Money 3.0 ■ 3-Year Limited Parts Warranty
 - \$2599

P5-120 BEST BUY

Intel 120MHz Pentium Processor ■ 16MB EDO Performance-Enhanced

- Memory ■ 256KB Pipelined Burst Cache
- 1GB 10ms IDE Hard Drive ■ PCI Enhanced IDE Interface
- 64-Bit PCI Graphics Accelerator
- w/ 2MB DRAM ■ 4X CD-ROM
- 3.5" Diskette Drive ■ 15" .25dp Vivitron Color Monitor ■ 7-Bay Desktop Case
- AnyKey Keyboard & MS Mouse 2.0 MS-DOS 6.22 & WFW 3.11
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If you can't find a system

that suits your needs, call

us and we'll be happy to

custom build one for you.

**MS Office Professional

4.3 includes MS Word,

Excel PowerPoint®

presentation graphics

program, and Access®

■ 3-Year Limited Parts Warranty

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■ Intel 133MHz Pentium Processor* ■ 16MB EDO Performance-Enhanced

- 256KB Pipelined Burst Cache ■ 1,62GB 9ms IDE Hard Drive w/
- Mode 4 Support
- PCI Enhanced IDE Interface ■ Matrox® MGA™ Millennium™ 2MB WRAM Graphics Accelerator
- 4X 3-CD Changer ■ 16-Bit Ensoniq[®] Wavetable &
 - Altec ACS-31 Speakers w/ Subwoofer

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 - MS-DOS 6.22 & WFW 3.11 ■ Microsoft Windows 95 Upgrade ■ MS Office Professional 4.3**
 - Bookshelf & Money 3.0 ■ 3-Year Limited Parts Warranty
 - \$4399

SOFTWARE COLLECTION

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database.





ALL THE GATEWAY GOODS!

Incredible values from Gateway 2000.8 Peripherals and software sold only with the purchase of a system.

Communications & Storage TelePath™ 28.8 Fax/Modem Communication Center

Revolutionize your communication needs with the TelePath 28.8 fax/modem Communication Center. Internal fax/modem, 28,800bps modem, V.34, with 14,400bps fax capability. Sends and receives faxes, and sends and saves voice messages. Includes CD containing CompuServe.® Prodigy,® and America-Online® trial memberships. \$149 (TelePath 14.4K Fav/Modem \$79)

Colorado Memory Systems® Jumbo™ 1400 TBU CMS Jumbo 1400 internal tape backup unit with up to 1:36GB compressed

(680MB native) storage canacity per tane. Comes with MS Windows™ and DOS® software: one tane and cable. \$199

Multimedia New 4X Three-CD Changer

Enhance the value of your PC with the 4X three-CD changer. It supports multisession photo-CDs and XA format, enabling simultaneous audio and data with additional hardware. You'll have access to three times the amount of information of a regular CD-ROM drive and the ability to switch between programs. \$100 (ungrade from 4X CD-ROM)

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- Here's everything you need to add multimedia to a Gateway PC.
- Gateway 2000 16-bit CD-quality sound card, compatible with Sound Blaster™ cards, with MIDI/game port, mic in, stereo line in/out
- 2 Altec™ Lansing ACS-5 speakers

\$99 (with system purchase) Wavetable Audio Multimedia Kit.

Once you've heard wavetable audio, basic audio will never do!

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- New Altec Lansing ACS-31 three-piece speaker system
- Blue Ribbon Sound Works' SuperJAM! ir. software
 - \$209 (with system purchase) \$110 (upgrade from systems with 16-bit sound card and Altec speakers)

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High-performance 16-bit Ethernet cards. 16-bit Triple Media Card with BNC, AUI and RJ-45 connectors \$109 16-bit Card with only RJ-45 connector \$89

SMC® PCI Ethernet Adapter 32-bit card with both RJ-45 and BNC connectors \$149

Olicom Token Ring Adapter 16/4 ISA Card with STP and RJ-45 connectors \$279

Call the Gateway 2000 special component add-ons division at

Software

Microsoft Windows 95 Upgrade

Call today and order your copy of Windows 95, Microsoft's new operating system, on CD (shipped after its release). You won't be charged until it ships. Offer good through December 31, 1995. \$99 (Windows 95 on diskette, \$109)

Special Starter Pack

Tuneland,™ Mad Dog McCree,™ Mayo Clinic® Family Health Book, Better Homes and Gardens Healthy Cooking CD Cookbook™ The Lawnmower Man.18 Sitting on the Farm™ CD Deluxe Pack 1.0 MPC including Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing!® 2.0, U.S. Atlas 4.0, World Atlas 4.0 and Chessmaster 4000, \$59

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Six action-packed sports applications. Includes Unnecessary Roughness '95"; Hardball 4": FIFA International Soccer: PGA Tour® Golf: NHL® Hockey '95: and NASCAR® Racing. Also includes Gravis GamePad™ and CD holder. \$99

Kid's Backpack™

Seven exciting software applications specifically for kids with Sesame Street® Numbers: My First Incredible, Amazing Dictionary: The Cat Came Back: The Yukon Trail ", Keroppi Day Hopper; Math Blaster": In Search of Spot; and Sing-Along Kids." Also includes a 20-disc storage rack and microphone. \$99

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Gateway 17-Inch Vivitron™ Color Monitor

Non-interlaced color monitor using Sony® Trinitron® tube technology, capable of 1280 x 1024 resolution in non-interlaced mode, .26 dot pitch. Uperade from a 14-inch CrystalScan® 1024NI monitor \$400 Upgrade from a 15-inch CrystalScan monitor \$320 Upgrade from a 15-inch Vivitron monitor \$275 (Upgrade prices good only at the time of system purchase.)

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Epson® Stylus™ Color Ink Jet Printer

Features 360dpi high-quality print resolution and 720dpi for more brilliant colors on specially coated paper. Exclusive technology produces a precise dot. Includes parallel cable. \$559

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> James E. Powell -Windows Magazine September 1994

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The **Inside** Story/Jon Zilber

CD-ROM-A-RAMA

Thite Noise: Every month, Senior Contributing Editor "CD-Ron" White confidently chomps on the latest discs to steer you toward the best new titles. But when it came to posing for the photographs in this month's feature, "CD-Ron's Top 101 CDs" (page 163), he had a few reservations. Shortly before the photo

shoot, he sent his editor an e-mail message from his remote outpost in San Antonio: "While I am delighted to go along with some goofiness, please, . . . no drag stuff (I've always hated Milton Berle), And no wild-man stuff (I've always hated psychotics). Leave me some shred of dignity, Yes?" Yes, To illustrate Ron's roundup of the vast variety of top titles, photographer David CD-Ron: Digging up Perry captured the many discs with dignity.



Help 95: Our exclusive compilation of keyboard shortcuts for Windows 95 and Windows 95 applications (see "1,001 Windows 95 Shortcuts," page S1, following page 128) was a natural for coauthors Matthew Lake and Yael Li-Ron, whose book about Windows 95 will be available soon from ZD Press (watch for an excerpt in PC Computing next month). As the editor of our Help section, Yael is a big fan of Windows 95's new capabilities for power users, like its aggressive support for right-mouse-button shortcuts. But, she notes, "While Windows 95 is light-years more powerful than Windows 3.x, any changeeven when it's for the better-requires some period of adjustment."

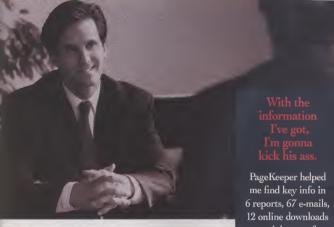
Under Cover: It's hard to argue with Windows 95's impressive feature list. However, is it a more usable operating



system than what you already have? You'll find our answer in our cover story, "Windows 95: The Ultimate Test" (page 116). And if you think you're going a bit stir-crazy waiting for the shrink-wrapped version of Windows 95 to ship, imagine how its developers must be feeling. You already know how far the ship date has slipped, but consider some of the lesspublicized milestone targets for the Windows 95 development team (cour-

tesy of Microsoft Senior Vice President Brad Silverberg); As of press time, coffee consumption (at 2,283,600 cups) is running more than 100 percent over goal, while doughnut intake (13,800 units) is inexplicably a tad behind projections. Most telling, however, is the 30 percent shortfall in the expected number of new babies to be born into developer families over the course of Windows 95's gestation (63 blessed events and counting).

Demo of the Month: "Now let me see if I have this straight?" was the recurring question as awestruck editors watched InfoImaging Technologies' demo of 3D Fax (reviewed in this issue; see page 94). This innovative software creates faxable pixel patterns (they look a little like those annoying 3-D stereograms) that are actually encoded files-text, data, color images, sound, or even executables. Download a demo version from PC Computing's online forums.



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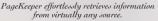
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BY PHONE, FAX, NET, & POST: Virus False Alarm · Mac and PC Duke It Out · Lost in Explorer

PREPARING NEW USERS FOR SYSTEM QUIRKS

The Bug Stops Here

d Bott (surely the best technical writer around) hit the nail right on the head when he pointed out the importance of Microsoft helping newbies understand Windows 95 bugs and how Microsoft can turn inevitable bug reports into a competitive advantage ("Bug Busters," June, page 306). Without this help, there are going to be zillions of freak-outs per day when the cute lite arrow cursor starts dancing around the screen, ignoring the beginner's frantic mouse-twitching. This is one commentary that Bill Gates must see. It wouldn't hurt the other software producers, either.

NAT HOOPER VIA COMPUSERVE

Mo' Beta Blues

First Microsoft and now Symantec are selling beta versions of software to the public. The arrogance and greed of such behavior is almost beyond belief! Consumers are, in effect, being changed for the "privilege" of helping developers work the buge out of their software. Instead of being changed for buggy, unfinished software, people willing to risk their data should be paid for their trouble.

R. Wayne Porter Corning, Arkansas

Good News on Good Times

There's been a lot of buzz on the Internet recently about a supposed Good Times virus. Rumor has it that the virus, created by an America Online user, spreads through e-mail messages that have the subject line "Good Times." If downloaded and opened, the e-mail message rewrites your hard drive and damages your processor by placing it in an nth-complexity infinite binary loon.

Is this a hoax? As the technology coordinator of a school district here in Michigan, I have a rowdy collection of students e-mailing everyone they know with the subject line "Good Times" just for kicks. Tell me, what's the real story?

JAMES FOX ZEELAND, MICHIGAN

IT IS A HOAX. To date, you can't get a virus simply by reading an e-mail message. Danger exists only if you download an attached executable file and run it on your system. JOC

Windows 97?

Ilove it! When you asked, "Can the Mac survive Windows 95?" (Mail, June, page 28), I just had to laugh. Ever since the Macintosh came out in 1984, PC fans have knocked it and said it doesn't have a real operating system. Finally, 11 years later, Windows users have the next best thing: Windows 95. The way Microsoft works, Windows 95 won't be out until "79, and by that time we'll have Apple's upcoming Copland operating system and maybe even Apple's Gershwin! Perhaps the question should be "Can Windows 95's survive Windows 95?"

> JIM WINSKI VIA COMPUSERVE

No Adios, Amiga

Will Windows 95 kill the Mac? Not a chance. Even if Windows 95 were every-thing. Microsoft wants us to think it is, there is still a lot of room for alternative ways of doing things. I use Amiga computers at home, and there are many ways they outperform computers running operating systems like Windows 3.x and OS/2. The day we try to limit everything to one architecture and one operating system is the day innovation dies and I start looking for a new vocation.

DAVID GODSHALL

Mac Attack

Will the Mac survive Windows 95? Nope. So many applications are being produced for Windows that it's impossible for the Mac industry to catch up; almost 80 percent of the computer market uses Intel-Based Machines runnine Windows.

PAUL BRUN

Displaced Dissing

When I read "Betting Beyond Beta" (Mail, May, page 27), I couldn't believe my eyes. Who would trash Windows 95 because they're disappointed in Explore? I, too, and issappointed with Explore? A too, and issappointed with Explore, and I still use File Manager. Regarding the significant learning curve for Windows 95, you must be kidding. Although the prerelease version came with sparse documentation, I was able to customize my desktop and learn most of the control-panel features—within an hour and a half. There's no way I will ever go back to Windows 3x. If you want to trash Windows 95, do it for good reasons—like crashes and bugs.

MARK VUCINICH VIA THE INTERNET

Exploring Windows 95

Bill Bishop obviously didn't play with his beta version of Windows 95 very long (Mail, May, page 27), or he would

Return to Server, Address Unknown · Nixed in the Sticks

have discovered the option to use Windows Explorer or File Manager, hidden under the cryptic filename of WIN-FILEEXE. For all other users stuck on Windows 3.1, there is also the option to use Program Manager instead of the Windows 95 interface by selecting the filename PROGMANEXE.

NICK MILIANES Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey

HE'S NOT ALONE. As we discovered when we brought Windows 95 into our Usability Labs, Explorer confounds many people. For details, check out this month's cover story, "Windows 95: The Ultimate Test," page 116. EB

The 32-Bit Advantage

In the April PC Computing, Gateway 2000's P5-100XL was rated poorly ("New-Found Power," page 122). One of the reasons listed for its low performance scores was that it didn't include a 32-bit disk driver. In the June issue, the same computer was given high marks ("The Desktop

Superguide," page 127). Why the sudden change? Did Gateway add a 32-bit driver? If so, is that enough to change the machine's score from a one-star overall rating to a four-and-a-half-star overall rating?

GLENN KLEIN OCEANSIDE, NEW YORK

YES. After Gateway added a 32-bit driver update, the P5-100XL's performance improved 50 percent. AM

Missing X-Files

In your article on Web sites in the May issue ("101 Best Net Bets," page 173), you misprinted the address for The X Files home page. The correct address is URL=http://www.uml.edu/~ccashman/x-files/x-files.html.

STEWART BULLARD VIA COMPUSERVE

THANKS FOR the update. Agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully are now on the case. JOC

Boon and Gloom

I live in what you would call the boon-docks, and I think computer magazine assume everyone has local access phone numbers to online services. Toll-free numbers are not the answer because the cost of them is passed on to users. We need better phone rates. Then I would eheck out the Internet.

TEDDY BANKS TORONTO, KANSAS

YOU MAY SOON be in luck. The popularity of the Net means that local-service providers that charge a flat monthly fee are cropping up everywhere—even in the boondocks. Likewise, the big national providers like Netcom are adding new local numbers all the time. JOO

No Pain, Net Gain

I want to express my delight upon reading your Help section article, "Around the Network in Eight Days" (May, page



180). If anyone ever asks me how my LAN is set up, I will certainly suggest they read this informative article!

JOE BAKER VIA THE INTERNET

NOW THAT your network is running, upgrade to Windows 95. See this month's Help section for pointers. YL

Microsoft Conspiracy 95

Here's a conspiracy theory worth considering: Microsoft has delayed its release of Windows 95 not to iron out bugs, but to buy time for the company to enforce its intellectual property rights around the world. What do you think?

PETER PROCTOR

IF I HADN'T SEEN all the bugs (big and small) that cropped up as Windows 95 evolved, I might agree with you. It really has taken this long to get an operating system that works properly. The attention to intellectual-property

issues, such as rampant piracy in the Far East, is part of an ongoing effort that has really just begun. EB

Fueling the Antitrust Debate

Paul Somerson's "Spork You" (May, page 51) misses the point when it comes to Microsoft's monopoly. The following analogy may help: A large fuel company becomes so powerful that it requires car manufacturers to sell cars that use its fuel. When it changes the fuel composition, car purchasers have to switch to the company's oil, antifreeze, and transmission fluid. After competitors develop equally good automotive fluids, the company changes its fuel so that buyers need reformulated solutions. Not surprisingly, the megafuel company offers perfectly matched new fluids! We can't let one company make both the fuel and the fluids.

MICHAEL ZINO

SORRY, Michael, but it sounds like you're about a quart low. PS

For the Record

• In our June review of contact managers ("New Acts in Contact Management," June, page 96), Tracker Software's tollfree number should have been listed (800) 925-9950, and TeleMagie's toll-free number should have been (800) 835-6244. • The correct access time for Plextor's 6Plex CD-ROM drive is 145ms (A-List: June, page 49, and July, page 45).

• The correct price for Tobit's FaxWare ("Fax Forward on the Network," June, page 113) is \$790 for 5 users and \$1,550 for 30 users. Tobit's FaxWare does indeed support U.S. Robotics' Courier V.Everything, and Tobit also offers a Windows interface for both sending and receiving faxes. It can also support networks of up to 1,000 users.

IBM is buying Lotus? What Happens Next? Send your thoughts about this and other subjects to Mail, PC Computing, 950 Tower Lane, 19th Floor, Foster City, CA 94404; fax: (415) 578-7059; Internet: 72241.1724@compuserve.com; CompuServe: 72241,1724.



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PCs per Capita:

Canada, Scandinavia, and Australia follow the Americans closely in PC adoption. The rest of the world lags far behind.



Navigator Rules: The most popular Web browser is Netscape's Navigator. IBM's WebExplorer and Spyglass Mosaic have just a 2 percent market share each.

Commit This To Memory

EDO RAM

Remember the days when choosing a fast PC was just a question of picking the right high-speed chip? Well, the chip still matters, but now that we have processors that hum along at 75MHz, 90MHz, 100MHz, and faster; video adapters that are supercharged with various performance enhancements; and hard drives that are hooked up to local buses of ever-increasing bandwidth, we suddenly find that our PC's main memory just can't keep up.

But a solution is at hand. Extended Data Out (EDO) RAM is rapidly being adopted by desktop PC makers and will no doubt be standard issue on Pentium and P6 systems in the future. It's likely to be of even greater benefit for Pentiumbased portables.

A variant on conventional dynamic RAM (DRAM) and just as cheap to manufacture, EDO RAM gives systems a 10 percent performance boost. Unfortunately, an EDO-sanscache design can't keep up



Think Fast: Is your high-speed Pentium held up in traffic? It could be if your new system doesn't use EDO RAM.

with a powerful 100MHz or faster processor. But that's where new Peripheral Component Interface (PCI) core logic like Intel's Triton and Opti's Viper-M chipsets come in.

Using EDO RAM and other enhancements, Triton doubles CPU-to-memory-to-bus data transfers to 100MBps, bringing performance on par with a system with conventional DRAM chips and a 256K L2 cache. By adding an L2 cache, a system maker can squeeze out as much as 30 percent more performance over systems with Intel's priorgeneration Neptune PCI chipset and conventional DRAM.

EDO memory holds even greater benefits for portables. For example, by substituting EDO RAM for conventional DRAM chips, Toshiba was able to leave expensive static RAM (SRAM) and cache controller components out of its 75MHz T4900 notebook and make up the slight performance hit elsewhere. According to

UPDATES

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Notebook Batteries

Gary Elsasser, Toshiba's director of product planning, this not only saved precious motherboard real estate but also reduced power consumption and system heat considerably.

An L2 cache burns as many as 5 watts per hour with a corresponding amount of heat given off and requires additional expensive heat dissipation components. Substituting EDO RAM for an L2 cache lets a 75MHz notebook run 15 to 20 degrees cooler and gain about 10 percent in battery life, chims Flassers.

The advent of EDO RAM, opens up a new range of possibilities for computer buyers. Expect to see cacheless Pentium desktops in the \$1,500 range before too long. In general, an EDO-only desktop will cost about \$200 less than its cachecquipped counterparts, and an EDO-only portable will cost about \$100 to \$150 less.

If you're in the market for a new system, be sure its core PCI logic uses the new Triton chipset. If you want the best bang for the buck, look for a Triton-equipped system with both EDO RAM and a big L2 cache (256K or more). After all, Windows and its applications continue to make ever-increasing hardware demands. Expect to find Triton/EDO-based systems with L2 caches as large as 512K soon.

Is EDO the be-all and endall memory solution? Hardly. PC makers are still tinkering with various other flavors of DRAM—Rambus, synchronous RAM, cached DRAM, and Enhanced DRAM, to name only a few. But these designs are still on the drawing board—you can commit EDO RAM to memory today. MH

Snap It In, Power Up

Does your portable always run out of juice halfway through a transcontinental flight? Keep your portable running for up to 15 hours with AER Energy's PowerPro. This new 3-pound zinc-air battery replaces your current battery and can stretch your computing time by a factor of five. Batteries are available for Toshiba and Hewlett-Packard portables, with models for other brands to follow. MH

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Digital Modems

If you're wired for ISDN, you need a digital modem. Here are the four least-expensive models we could fin' as of May 22, 1995. Prices don't include an NTI adapter (about \$150).

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U.S. Robotics 605; Comput Discount Warehouse 606; Motornia 607; IBM 608

RADAR: Program Manager Retires, Right Click Advances

What's on the scope? If a blip is near or moving toward the middle of the radar screen, check it out. If it's moving off the screen, steer clear for now





Keyboards for All Occasions

The next time you upgrade your hardware or software, we recommend you consider a

For those ready to migrate to Windows 95, there's NMB Technologies' Windows 95 Keyboard. It adds to the 101key layout, including an Erase-Ease backspace button situated on the space bar and a new as a right mouse-button.

Maxi Switch's Maxi Sound places Altec Lansing speakers on a 101-key keyboard, with a volume control, microphone, and audio I/O jacks, SC&T's Platinum Sound MSK-200 offers all of the above plus a stereo amplifier and bass, treble, and balance controls.

If someone bets that you can't type as fast with one above), designed for onehand operation. Type words, phrases, and macros by hitting chords made up of combinations of the seven keys. JOC

Windows 95 Keyboard / NMB Maxi Sound / Maxi Switch /

(520) 294-5450 / \$79 est. street price / Platinum Sound MSK-200 / SC&T / (800) 408-4084 / \$160 est, street price /

BAT Personal Keyboard / Infogrip / Reader Service No. 612

CPA on a CD-ROM

DacEasy Accounting 2.0 for Windows with Payroll now ships on CD-ROM with more than a dozen other applications, including lite versions of Delrina's WinFax communications software. Avery Dennison's LabelPro, and Phoenix Internet SE (with five free hours of Internet access). You also get handy reference tools in Allegro's Home PC

Library, Competence Software's Financial Competence, and Market Art's Wall Street Money. (A few working demos of other apps are thrown in as well.) All this and more for a street price of \$129. RS

DacEasy Accounting 2.0 for Windows CD-ROM Edition with Pavroll / DacEasy / (800) 322-3279, (214) 732-7500 / \$129 est. street price / Reader Service No. 613

PRESENTATION GRAPHICS

Make Your Point with Windows 95

Once you switch to Windows 95, expect WATCH your presentations to look fantastic. How so? Enhancements to the latest offerings of Microsoft's Power-Point and Lotus's Freelance Graphics promise to give presentations a whole new look.

Although PowerPoint 4.0 brought a degree of presentation intelligence to the table with its AutoContent Wizard, it offered a lean lineup of guidelines for creating even basic presentations. Look for some usability additions to the AutoContent Wizard in the Windows 95 version of PowerPoint.

Among a host of PowerPoint Notes Pages | Meeting Minutes | Action Items | Today'i want to talk about 2nd quarter results for Volcano Coffee Company. The company has enjoyed ternendous success, and in the next 30 minutes, I want to utine the key factors that have contributed to that success

Power to Persuade: PowerPoint's new Meeting Minder lets you jot down notes from a meeting and appends them to your presentation.

changes, a few stand out. One in particular is AutoClipArt. Tell PowerPoint to scan your document, and upon finding keywords (such as success or teamwork) it will suggest clip art to display on that slide. Planting graphics has never been this easy.

PowerPoint's Meeting Minder is also brimming with potential. Imagine giving a presentation to as many as 65 colleagues across your network. When you're done, you can jot down notes and action items from the meeting. The best part is that your action items are appended to your presentation as a final slide, providing a record

> of who agreed to do what-the ultimate in real-time paper trails.

> > Like the other Office products in the Microsoft lineup, you can now reap the benefits of Auto-Correct in Power-Point, complete with a shared dictionary of words among all Office

applications. A new way of asking for help by turning to the AnswerWizard lets you dig in to the complex features quickly and painlessly. Just type in your question-in everyday English-and the AnswerWizard gives you a list of help topics from which to choose.

Look for similar evecatching features to appear in the venerable Freelance Graphics. as well as enhancements such as onscreen presentation preparation and slide transitions. And of course, both Freelance Graphics and PowerPoint will include many of the datasharing capabilities you'll see across the Microsoft and Lotus product lines, especially in their suite offerings. And those presentations? They've never Îooked better, KKC

PowerPoint for Windows 95 / Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400 / Price not yet determined / Reader Service No. 614

Freelance Graphics for Windows 95 / Lotus Development Corp. / (800) 426-7682 / Price not yet determined / Reader Service No. 615

Contributors to Pulse: KYLA K. CARLSON, JAMES OLIVER CURY, MIKE HOGAN, MATTHEW LAKE, Edited by WENDY TAYLOR





AcerNote[™] Pro P75MHz

pentium

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- Built-in Touchpod Pointing Device Externolly Removoble 1.44MB Diskette Drive
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- Secondary Lithium Ion Bottery Option
- (When Avoiloble)
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- 1 44MR Diskette Drive
- 15" (13.7" Viewoble Image Size) .28mm Non-interloced
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Bug Bytes Quick Fixes to Software Glitches and Hardware Gotchas by Doug Vargas

Peachtree Accounting Takes a Break

Ergonomics experts are always encouraging us to take breaks and blink once in a while, but how do they expect us to get any work done? Well, Peachtree Accounting 3.0 for Windows users have discovered that a little intermission isn't such a bad idea. Try to restore a backup with Version 3.0 B5 right after importing a journal into the company records, and Peachtree Accounting serves up this warning: "Error in restoring files! Data is corrupt or missind!"

Fix: Take a little break—it's a false alarm. Simply quit Peachtree Accounting, restart it, and the backup will restore everything properly. All right, break time's over. . . .

Locked Out of Act We have good news for users of Act Symantee has released a patch that will let Version 2.0x users transform their copies of Act to the latest version, 2.04. The file, ACT204.EXE, is on Symantee's BBS at (503) 484-6669. The update speeds performance and adds other enhancements. However, some people have discovered that after applying the patch their passwords no longer let them into their Act databases. Fix: This happens only if your database password is longer than nine characters. The quick solution is to open your database with a previous version of Act and change the password to a shorter one. Then you'll be able to fully appreciate what Version 2.04 has to offer.

PowerPoint Colorizes the Classics Thought you'd try to spice up your Power-Point presentation with something a little different? Why not throw in some video clips of giant squids or flying demons? That will wake up those slumbering investors! But wait a minute. The colors aren't quite right; those demons aren't supposed to be purple. Indeed, some users of Microsoft's PowerPoint 4.0 for Windows have been seeing the wrong colors when they include Windows AVI video clips in their multimedia presentations.

Fix: It turns out that PowerPoint A.0 and Ala cane sperience "palette corruption" that causes an unfortunate colorization of your hororr-movic elips. The answer is to contact Microsoft at (600) 360-7561 and order the update to the latest version (6.0c), which eliminates the problem. Now, back to the presentation. Hey, where did everybody god?

A Kodak Moment to Forget It will be great when the old family photo album is finally transferred to Photo CD format. Then you and your loved ones can gather around the PC and click through old memories. But a few problems may await



you. For example, when trying to open a file from a Kodak Photo CD you may get the message "error reading drive," or your system may crash.

Fix: The version of SmartDrive that comes with MS-DOS Versions 6.0 to 6.2 doesn't like to see the occasional unformatted disk spaces that appear on Photo CDs. Update your version of DOS to 6.22 or higher and the problem disappears. Alternately, simply keep SmartDrive from messing with your CD-ROM drive. At the DOS prompt, type: SMARTDRIVEXE X-<RPC (Xbeing the drive letter of your CD-ROM drive). Then you'll be able to see every photo from Uncle Clark's 18 CDs of vacation pictures. Maybe that error message wasn't so bad after all.

Don't Try to Pull the Switch on Excel Preformatted floppy disks? Bahl Real men format their own floppy disks, one by one, early in the morning, before yoga. Unfortunately, real men (and women) have found that if they open an Excel 5.0 for Windows document from one of these disks, then replace the floppy disk with another and try to save, they get an error message stating "Filename is not valid."

Fix: It turns out that when you format floppy disks with DOS 5.0 and higher, each disk gets unique serial number. If you open a spreadsheet file from one of these disks, Excel emembers the number and expects you to save it to the same disk. If the serial number changes, it won't save the file. The answer is to use preformatted disks, which don't have serial numbers. Excel will behave, and you can sleep later in the morning.

Quicken's Way to Save Money Three are some things everyone needs to learn to get through life, like being able to tell which Pop-Tarts are nomostic, knowing how to creatively shift the blame onto unforescen forces, and, of course, how to get around in Quicken for Windows, Intuitive wildly popular personal-finance program. Intuit releases maintenance updates for the program several times a year, and the latest undette brings Ouicken 4 to

interim release number 7. This update adds many new features and is available for download from Intuit's support areas on America Online, CompuServe, and Proligy (the filename is CW480-ZIP on all three services). However, some users have discovered that after updating to interim release number 7, the application crashes when they try to print checks.

Fixz Quicken's printer settings may need to be "born again" after the update is installed. To do this, go into the /QUICKENW directory and rename the WPR.DAT file to WPR.OLD. The next time you start Quicken, you'll have to reestablish your printer settings, but then you'll be able to print checks and pay all your bills.



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System Requirements A PC equipped with a 386, 486, Pentrum or equivalent processor * Windows \$1 or 3.11, Windows for Workgroups 3.1 or 3.11, running in 386 enhanced mode * 4 MB RAM required, 8 MB RAM recommended * RAM Deabler for Windows works in random with any DOS memory extender, such as QEMM or Netroom

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The A-List Editors' Top Picks by Wendy Taylor

		Top Pick	The Buzz		The Stats	Issue Reviewed
sms \	High- Performance Pentium	Dell Dimension XPS P133c	Why settle? Dell's 133MHz Pentium is as fast as it gets—for now.	/	\$3,549, 133MHz Pentium, 16MB EDO RAM, 1GB hard drive.	See Any 1995, page 66. Reader Service No. 621
Systems	Pricewise Desktop PC	AST Advantage Adventure 6075p	Everything you need to run a business: telephony, voice mail, fax, and lots of applications.	1	\$2,399, 75MHz Pentium, BMB RAM, 540MB, 4X CD-ROM.	See May 1995, page 67. Reader Sennce No. 622
Portables		Toshiba Satellite T2150CDT	A built-in CD-ROM drive and batteries that last and last. Coming soon: a removable quad-speed CD version,	/	\$4,899, 75MHz 4B6DX4, BMB RAM, 500MB hard drive.	See April 1995, page 58. Reader Service No. 623
		IBM ThinkPad 701C	Better than George Jetson's car-the butterfly keyboard spreads its wings when you open the case.	/	\$4,999, 50MHz 4B6DX2, 8MB RAM, 510MB hard drive.	See March 1995, page 56. Reader Service No. 624
	Anna Carlo Anna Carlo	Dell Latitude XP 4100CX	Tough as nails, plus a battery that takes you from N.Y. to L.A.	1	\$3,299 to \$4,199, 100MHz DX4, BMB RAM, lithium Ion.	See January 1995, page 124. Reader Service No. 625
Printers	Desktop Laser Printer	Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5P	You can buy a faster laser, but not a better one. Plus, who needs cables? Beam jobs to the IR port instead.	1	\$B50, 6 ppm, 600 dpi, PCL5 (PostScript optional), infrared port.	page 64.
	Network Laser Printer	Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 4Si MX	Even 50-page print jobs fly out faster than you can trot down the hall to claim them.	1	\$5,200, 17 ppm, 600 dpi, PCL5, PostScript Level 2.	See December 1994, page 134. Reader Service No. 627
	Portable Printer	Citizen PN60	Small enough to slip into a briefcase, light enough to carry anywhere.	1	\$365, 300 dpi thermal transfer, 2.25 pounds.	See February 1995, page 64. Reader Service No. 628
	Personal Color Printer	Canon BJC-70	If the sleek, black design doesn't grab your attention, the color output will.	1	\$259, 720 by 360 dpi (mono), 360 by 360 dpi (color).	Stay tuned. Reader Service No. 629
Video	High-Resolution Monitor	Nanao FlexScan T2·20	It's like buying orchestra seats for Windows—and worth every penny,	/	\$1,380 (17 inch), \$2,120 (20 inch), 1,280 by 1,024.	See January 1995, page 142. Reader Service No. 630
	High-Resolution Graphics Accelerator	Matrox MGA Millennium	Ultrafast Windows RAM and 3-D acceleration make this the graphics accelerator to covet.	1	\$4B0, 4MB WRAM, 1,280 by 1,024 at 76Hz, PCI interface.	Stay tuned. Reader Service No. 631
Storage	Removable Storage	Iomega Zip Drive	Zippety-zip. Near-hard-drive performance, and the cartridges are removable.	1	\$200, 25MB or 100MB cartridges, SCSI or parallel.	See June 1995, page 70. Reader Service No. 632
	CD-ROM Drive	Plextor 6Plex	It sets the new speed standard for CDs, Now where's our jukebox version?	1	\$550, SCSI, 145ms access time, 256K buffer.	See June 1995, page 67. Reader Service No. 633
		Visioneer PaperPort	A paper floppy drive for your PC and the best way to tame your paper in-box.	/	\$369, 400-dpi scanner, document management software.	See June 1995, page 68. Reader Service No. 634
Peripherals		Creative Labs Sound Blaster Awe32	The gaming and business standard. Sounds great, too.	1	\$299, 32-voice polyphony, 16-bit DSP.	See June 1995, page 162. Reader Service No. 635
		Motorola V.3400	Wires you to the world at 28.8Kbps— the compatibility champ.	1	\$B95, 2B.BKbps, LCD screen.	See June 1995, page 166. Reader Service No. 636

The A-List Editors' Top Picks by Wendy Taylor

		Top Pick	The Buzz	The Stats	Issue Reviewed
1	Software Suite	WordPerfect PerfectOffice 3.0	Cross-app integration so seamless you'll forget which program you're in.	\$659, 8MB RAM, 40MB to 92MB hard-disk space.	See November 1994, page 86. Reader Service No. 637
p Apps	Word Processor	Microsoft Word 6.0	Still the wordsmiths' favorite, but Ami Pro fans should check out the new Lotus Word Pro.	\$495, 386 or faster, 8MB RAM, 28MB to 32MB hard-disk space.	See Occember 1994, page 160. Reader Senvice No. 638
Desktop Apps	Spreadsheet	Microsoft Excel 5.0	Quattro Pro and 1-2-3 also get the job done, but usability extras make Excel our top pick.	\$320, 386 or faster, 4MB RAM, 20MB hard-disk space.	See December 1994, page 168. Reader Service No. 639
	Database	Lotus Approach 3.0	Gives databases a good name— no programming required.	\$329, 386 or faster, 4MB RAM, 8.5MB hard-disk space.	See March 1995, page 146 Reader Service No. 640
1	Presentation Graphics	Microsoft PowerPoint 4.0	Create a winning sales presentation— on your lunch hour. Watch for a Windows 95 version soon.	\$340, 386 or faster, 4MB RAM (8MB recommended).	See Oecember 1994, page 178. Reader Service No. 641
ı	Personal Desktop Publisher	Microsoft Publisher 2.0			See July 1995 page 170. Reader Service No. 642
Graphics	Professional Desktop Publisher				See Occember 1994, page 163. Reader Service No. 643
ı	Business Graphics	Shapeware Visio 3.0	Click, drag, done. This is business drawing for people who can't.	\$149, 386 or faster, 4MB RAM.	See December 1994, page 205. Reader Service No. 644
	Photo Editor	Adobe Photoshop 3.0 for Windows	A digital darkroom for your PC and the desktop publishing standard for Macs and PCs.	\$550, 486 or faster, 8MB RAM, minimum 20MB hard-disk space.	November 1994, page 106. Reader Service No. 645
nce	Personal Finance	Intuit Quicken Deluxe 4	Take back your checkbook. Get your finances under control quickly and painlessly.	\$39, 386 or faster, 4MB RAM, 7MB hard-disk space.	See April 1995, page 186. Reader Service No. 646
Finance	Business Accounting	Peachtree Software Peachtree Accounting 3.0 for Windows	Cheaper than your average accountant and a lot easier to understand.	\$139, 386 or faster, 4MB RAM, 12MB hard-disk space.	See October 1994, page 88. Reader Service No. 647
9	-	Delrina Communications Suite 2.1	Total fax and modem control. Now available with a personal page scanner for sending hard copy.	\$109 (\$299 with page scanner), 486 or faster, 4MB RAM.	See January 1994, page 126. Reader Service No. 648
municatio	1-	Infolmaging Technologies 3D Fax	File transfer by fax—turn executable program files, color images, and long documents into short faxes.	\$99, 4MB RAM, requires fax modem and fax software.	See page 94. Reader Service No. 649
Com	-	Netscape Navigator	Don't take our word for it; download a copy from ftp.mcom.com.	Free (\$39 commercial), 4MB RAM, Internet access.	See April 1995, page 52. Reader Service No. 650
sloo	Personal Information Wanager	Lotus Organizer 2.0	So the interface is a little precious— the networking and usability extras are first-rate.	\$119, 386 or faster, Windows 3.1, 8MB hard-disk space.	See February 1995, page 118. Reader Service No. 65
Organization Tools	Project Manager	Primavera Systems SureTrak Project Manager	Manage a cast of thousands for less than a king's ransom.	\$299, 386 or faster, 4MB RAM, 11MB hard-disk space.	See March 1995, page 80. Reader Service No. 652
Organi	System Utility	Nico Mak Computing WinZip	Slash your online time and reclaim your hard drive; zip your file uploads, and squeeze data files down to size.	\$29, 4MB RAM, Windows 3.1.	Stay tuned. Reader Service No. 653

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R.I.P. TV?



In the explosive cinematic thriller *Speed*, psycho-bomber Dennis Hopper stares at a bank of TV sets, watching a live broadcast of terrified passengers he's trapped on a bomb-rigged bus. Despite a warning not to escape, one hapless rider makes a break for the exit. Enraged, Hopper punches in a code on a cellular phone and **BLOWS HER TO BITS**. He grins maniacally and cackles, "Interactive TV, Jack, wave of the future..."

Well, that might do OK in New York, but the cheesy attempts to sell a more mainstream version of interactive television have mostly fizzled. Consumers just won't pay for extra buttons that let them vote on hot issues or pick different camera angles in a football game.

To catch on, ITV needs a mind-boggling array of content choices (preferably from all over the planet); a brain-dead selection mechanism; and a fast, robust, underlying two-way network.

Kinda like the World Wide Web.

The truth is, interactive TV is here today, and it's not a service from **ONE OF THE CABLE GIANTS**. Instead, it's the incredibly easy, incredibly interactive, incredibly rich WWW.

Ever watch a guy watch TV? He flashes in cases and from one channel to another. Ever ear a guy on the Web? Same behavior. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld says this is because men are hunters and women nesters. For whatever reason, most Web users are guys. WEB SURFING HAS REPLACED CHANNEL SURFING for many of them.

Both TV and the Web offer news, weather, sports results, information, and entertainment. But cable's 500 Annels CANT TOUCH the Web's 500,000. And as the Web offers more video and music as well as pinpoint special-interest content, it will displace television in the near future.

In a keynote speech at the Media/Options conference, Eric Hippeau, Ziff-Davis's CEO, revealed that online use is already eating into conventional TV-viewing time. PC-equipped homes, for example, are more likely to cancel their premium cable channels. And, according to a Gallup Poll study, online households watch 25 percent less TV than those not yet wired.

The Internet has been BUMPING ALONG FOR YEARS, a fertile text wilderness accessible only to pioneers willing to master tricky syntax. But the graphical, point-and-click Web opened up the frontier to the masses. There's no turning back.

However, for the Web to really stomp TV, the current implementation needs help:

- Far better hot-list/bookmark management and accessible META-LISTS of cool topics and sites.
- One supercomprehensive, intelligent search mechanism that RUNS ALL THE OTHER SEARCH ENGINES and tries all possible synonyms.
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- Lower user costs supported by unobtrusive advertising (as with the Microsoft Network).
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JUST NOT INTUIT



ow that the Microsoft-Intuit deal has fallen apart, what's next for the big gorilla? How about the fears that many industry types have about Microsoft's plans to take over the world? There are three main conspiracy theories concerning the company's longterm strategy. Nobody can prove these ideas are true, but

they make great cocktail-party chitchat. Plot No. 1 involves the supposed desire Intuit and Microsoft had to control all worldwide financial markets, making money on the so-called interest float, and nickel-and-diming everyone to death with transaction fees. The most adamant theorists go so far as to say that Microsoft intended to own Intuit so it could spy on every American with a computer. Microsoft would do this by dominating all tax-preparation and financial software.

According to a report in one magazine, the company already has no qualms about using its new Microsoft Network product to report people's system configurations to headquarters. What more would it take to upload private financial documents in the middle of the night and create dossiers in Redmond's master computers? And how hard would it be to extract minute amounts of data during banking transactions?

Is this plot finished now that the Intuit deal has fallen apart? Or was the whole thing just a ruse for Microsoft to discover and emulate the secret to Intuit's success. maybe even winning a few key employees in the bargain? After all, Microsoft is legendary for penny-pinching. For it to propose a billion-dollar deal for a product similar to Microsoft Money just doesn't make sense. Microsoft has concentrated on mergers and acquisitions that expand its business into new areas, not areas it already plays in. Why would it want to buy out the competition when it can outcompete just about anyone?

Meanwhile, the likelihood that Gates & Co. is about to give up on its hopes to

dominate world banking is nil-and apparently the bankers know it, because they're doing what they can to improve their own technologies. The Intuit deal did have one drawback for Microsoft: It gave the world banks a wake-up call. Banking won't be the same in the 21st century, and bankers reckon that Bill Gates has more insight into the future than they do. In the meantime, Gates won't even have to put The INTIIIT deal

gave BANKERS a

wake-up call.

Internet and

ONLINE-SERVICE

SPOOKED, too.

scenarios are

WAY OFF the

mark. I hope.

But these scary

employees back to work on Money, because they never stopped working on it. They probably knew all along that the Intuit deal was a smoke screen

Plot No. 2 is another nickel-and-dime, controlfreak kind of plan. More than a few people are convinced that Microsoft, providers are using the Microsoft Network hook in Windows 95, is about to muscle out all of the Internet and onlineservice providers by creating a gateway to the Internet and competing services. If Microsoft can get a choke hold on the Internet, says one fellow, it can take over the industry.

I wish I could express this conspiracy with more eloquence, but it's difficult when I think it's so far-fetched. In fact, I can't tell who is more naive believing that Microsoft is indeed attempting such a coup, the guy telling me this, or me. Whatever the case, the online services are spooked. And they weren't any less jostled when Microsoft stale the NBC online account from America Online and made a big publicity splash over the deal.

Plot No. 3 has to do with Microsoft's strategy to become the world's biggest publisher by the year 2000. Not content with just software, Microsoft has been quietly buying electronic and other rights to as many books and publications as possible. I'm told that Microsoft already owns more rights to published material than any other company.

Before I close, let me tell you why these three scary scenarios are unlikely to occur. Simply put, these are not Microsoft's businesses. They're way off the mark. Intuit's success stems from the fact that Intuit is a forms company first and a software company second. It sells cheap razors (soft-

ware) to get people to buy its blades (forms), Microsoft does not comprehend this. Microsoft is a software company, period. And forget banking. I mean, sheesh!

Same thing for online. Microsoft is an insular company, clueless to the ways of the online world; it doesn't get it and never will. What's amusing is that Microsoft makes everyone so panicky. As for publishing, what's the point of purchasing a lot of old material when new material is worth more? Take a look at how much the complete works of William Shakespeare (in the public domain) sell for and how

many people buy them. Let's just say they're not on the New York Times best-seller list. Old material is worth very little, even on CD-ROM.

I'm not convinced that Microsoft can do much more than it has already done. And it sure isn't taking over the world any time soon. I hope.

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50 Lines of Code

Microsoft Access

If this looks tough, you may want to pick up a few books about Access programming.

From the general declarations Dim source_id As I

setting the values before the fields. Sub quantity_BeforeUpdate (Cancel As Integer) source_id = ME[[itemID] start_quantity = Mel[Quantity]

'After update Sub quantity_AfterUpdate()

'declaring the variables used in this function......
Dim CURRENT_db As Database
Dim ON_HAND_dbl As Double
Dim PRODUCTS_st As Recordset

Dim PRODUCTIS_rst As Hecordset Dim VAL_var As Vanant Dim NEW_PRODUCTID_ling As Long Dim NEW_QUANTITY_ling As Double Dim product_opt As QueryDef

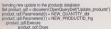
getting the new values......
NEW_PRODUCTID_ing = Mel[PRODUCT_ID]
NEW_QUANTITY_ing = Mel[Quantity]

Set current: dbf = dbEngin, Workspaces (0), Database (0)

NEW_PRODUCTID_ing = Me![PRODUCT_ID] NEW_QUANTITY_ing = Me![Quantity]

'undoing the changes that where made to the products database. Set product_odf = discurrent.OpenQuent@r("Undo_previous_update") product_odf Parameters(0) = Quantity_dbl. product_odf Parameters(1) = PRODUCTID_ing

product adf.Clase



after del confirm == Sub Form_AfterDelConfirm (Status As Integer)

Dim Val var As Variant Dim products_qdf As QueryDel Dim current_dbf As Database

Set dbCurrent = dbEngine.Workspaces(0).Databases(0)

var_val = RenumberDetail()

'To update the inventory, run the query to add the old items back in Set product_qdf = Current_dbt.OpenQueryDef("undo_previous_update")
qdfInventory.Parameters(0) = Cuantity_dbl
qdfInventory.Parameters(1) = productid_lng

adfirwentory.Execute

End Sub

One Easy Table Alpha Five

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GilSchwartz

FEAR OF 95

woke up screaming the other night. It was a horrible dream. I was standing in front of my mirror. And suddenly I saw that my interface was all different. I was prettier, tidier, and more functional, it was true. But I was totally unfamiliar to myself. Where my bumpy, beloved nose used to be now resided a cute button that would have been

right at home on Sandra Bullock. Looking again, I noticed with mounting horror that I had four eyes, six mouths, and more ears than an Iowa cornfield.

Reeling in dismay from the dream reflection, I realized that the room around me, too, had changed. It was huge, with acres of wall space. And all around me were windows upon windows, each with a different view of a different street, all of them almost wholly unfamiliar.

Then I woke up, a feather from my pillow dangling from the corner of my lip.

It didn't take me long to figure out what my dream was all about. I've been really anxious lately, and the area of my concern fought its way down into my subconscious, emerging while I slept, to torment me.

It's Windows 95, of course. I know it's coming. I know it's will be good for me and mine. I just ean't help being uptight about it. As with any mapor transformation life and style, it roils up tons of irrational fears, doubts, reservations, and qualms that no amount of advance publicity and reliable praise can dissipate.

Perhass if I acrate some of these appre-

remaps if I aerate some of these apprehensions, I will be able to put them behind me. Lord knows I need a good night's sleep. I'm afraid of multithreading, I know I

I'm afraid of multithreading, I know! A shouldn't be. But all those threads—what will the system be doing with them while I'm attempting to get some work done? Stuff in the background, right? Well, I don't know about you, but this gives me a quessy feeling, I'm never completely comfortable when people are doing things behind by back. How will If feel with my system bouncing, collating, munching una salad, shiming its shoes, and flossing

its virtual teeth while I plod along cranking out numbers or building the perfect Erruscan civilization?

In addition to multithreading, there's apparently going to be some aggressive multitasking going on, too. I'm uneasy about that. Every time I've been promised it, I've been hurt. I've fired up three, four, six applications at once, convinced from the literature that this version of Windows was going to let me walk

A MONSTER

haunts my

DREAMS It has

many threads

and OODLES

of windows.

It's coming to

GET ME. I can't

escape.

It's called

WINDOWS 95.

was going to let me walk and chew eight different kinds of gum at the same time. It was never very long before the inevitable crash left me with my bubble completely burst.

Then we get to the system-resources issues. With all the new available system resources, we'll be able to open 50, even 60 windows! That's a lot of windows. I don't think I have anything to fill all those windows. What if my system gets to be like cable television, with enormous room to handle data and entertainment, and nothing worthwhile to occupy all that excess capacity? What if I sometimes don't have enough to fill

even one reasonably respectable window? What will my machine think of me then? Will it want to leave me for a power player of more appropriate dimensions?

And what about the concept of built-in disk defragging? Do I want that? Until now, I've saved defragging for those quiet times,



when I had nothing else going on and was feeling pensive. I did it alone, in the privacy of my office. Now, for all I know, my machine will choose to defrag itself while I'm in the middle of a meeting, taking notes or something, with half the senior staff in attendance. That would be embarrassing.

Will my drivers work or will I need new ones? What if I don't want new ones? Will my old hardware will be relegated to the category of those needing previous, Windows 3.1 drivers? What does that say about them? I don't want my hardware dissed.

They tell me I'll be able to find out where all my IRQ and DMA assignments are. What will I do with that knowledge? Will I use it for good or for evil?

What will happen to DOS-protected mode? I love that mode. Most of my great games are in that mode. They tell

me I'll be able to run DOS better than when DOS was DOS. I wonder.

Thing is, in retrospect, I realize that, as much as I've complained. I've been relatively happy with weakly threaded, limply multitasked, tiny-bitted, flimsy, woozy old Windows. And every time I've tried to improve, polish, or otherwise tool with the existing product at all, the entire operating system has reared up and given me a big, painful, vicious bite in the butt. So I've focused my expectations. And learned to live within the system.

Now all of that is about to change. And I with it. I'm sure, in the end, it will

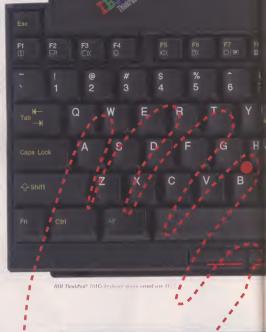
have been worth all the anticipation and the anxiety it generated—particularly if, as I hear is true, one can finally run a spreadsheet and play Doom simultaneously on company time.

Some business improvements make all the risks worthwhile.

Now there's absolutely no reason for you to squeeze and squint yourself into a notebook. With the reliable new IBM ThinkPad 701Cs,* you'll find the revolutionary TrackWrite™ full-size kevboard and generous 10.4 inch (measured diagonally) dual scan color screen an absolute winner. This 4.5lb.** heavyweight comes fully equipped. So go ahead, try it on for size.

Once you get your hands on the only notebook PC Magazine[†] has called the "new standard for others to match," you'll appreciate its full-function speakerphone, answering machine and fax. Not to mention the removable hard drive which gives you a virtually unlimited amount of storage.

"This gem of a tiny computer," as The Wall Street Journal^{tt} named it, also comes with excellent backup, the IBM HelpWare* line. No matter where you are in the U.S., your questions will be answered by our trained computer experts 24 hours





Hands down, no other

ThinkPad 701Cs at a glance

 DX2/50 MHz processor . 4MB RAM (up to 20MB) . Weighs about 4.5 lbs ** . 360MB1 removable hard drive

This 701Cs Notebook includes • 10.4" (measured diagonally) dual scan color screen

 TrackWrite™ expanding full-size keyboard with 85 keys and TrackPoint III111 with Quick Stop response and non-slip cap

. Integrated DSP provides internal 14.4 Kbps data/fax modem, telephone functions with built-in full-duplex speakerphone and digital answering machine

· Integrated infrared wireless file transfer, synchronization and printing . PCMCIA Support for two Type I or Type II cards or one Type III card

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The Mobile Pentium Vanguard

SNEAK PREVIEW
Stop the denial already. Your next portable is going to be a Pentium.

PREVIEW to be a Pentium. The price premium you'll pay over a comparable 100MHz DX4 will be negligible given the boost in performance, especially under Windows 95. How do we know this? Because five new systems have just joined what is fast becoming a parade of Pentium protebooks.

All in the Family AST's Ascentia 950N loses none of the features that have made the Ascentia fine of portales successful. These include its light weight (6,2 pounds without the AC adapter), 16-bit stereo sound with a standard set of audio adapters, a bright and capacious 10.4-inch active-matrix display (a dual-scan passive-matrix version is also available), a removable 810MB hard drive, dual PC Card slots, and an infrared port.

Although the Ascentia 950N is more than twice as fast as the 66MHz 486DX2 Ascentia 810, it lagged behind all the other machines tested here. We weren't able to test the battery on our prototype unit, but its lithium-ion battery should deliver at least three hours of life, probably more.

Like the Ascentia 950N, Dell's Latitude XPi packs a 75MHz Pentium processor into an existing notebook design. Kudos to its expansive wrist rest, solid 3 hours and 24 minutes of battery life (thanks to superior lithium-ion technology), light weight (6.2 pounds), dual PC Card slots, and removable 807MB hard drive.

That said, the Latitude XPi

makes no claims about being a desktop replacement. Unlike other Pentium portables, it lacks sound as well as infrared. The dual-scan passive-matrix display is generously large but somewhat dim. Its function keys are undersized. And the large center-mounted trackball is beginning to show its age when compared to the toud-pads and pointing sitcks used by other portables.

Still, the Latitude XPi outperformed every other notebook we tested except Zeos's Meridian 850, and it sells for only \$4.198. If you can live without certain features and usability refinements, the Latitude XPi packs more power for the dollar than any machine currently available.

Fast and Loaded On the other end of the price and features scale, Texas Instruments' TravelMate 5000 extends the company's venerable line of portables. The new offering not only features a 75MHz Pentium processor and PC1 local bus, but also brings subtle improvements in usability and technology. Dual lithium-ion batteries swap right out from the front of the unit. Their

charge life was 3 hours and 38 minutes. We also liked the back port covers that pop open and tuck away with a single button.

The machine integrates lobit stereo sound, an onboard microphone, a 10.5-inch thin film transistor (IFT) color display, and an infrared port. There are dual PC Card slots as well. An 810MB hard drive is standard fare, as is 8MB of RAM (expandable to 32MB), As performance goes, it falls within the middle ranks, although the PCI bus ensures performance will hold up even when multitasking.

OVERVIEW

The New Standard for Portable Computing



Brawn on a Budget: The fastest Pentium portables we've tested— Dell's Latitude XPI (left) and Zeos's Meridian 850 (right)—were also the most affordable, at less than \$5,000. Both machines signal the arrival of Pentium power as the new industry standard for mobile computing. IOTOGRAPHS BY ARNOLD TIOSE.

Guide to PC Computing's Ratings

Excellent A market leader that offers exceptional performance.	*	*	*	*	7
Good Excels in many areas; a good buy		*	*	*	Á
Acceptable Average for its class; a justifiable purchase			*	*	7
Poor Out-of-date or substandard, offset by some positive features				*	þ
Hannantahla Missing manas am fasturas avoid					J

Its broad functionality, high usability, long battery life, and having the smallest AC adapter of the lot are its high points. The price you pay is in heft. It weighs 6.7 pounds. Other usability drawbacks include undersized function keys and cursor controls. Still, all the way around, the TravelMate 5000 makes a top-notch desk-top replacement.

Song and Dance But if you're going to buy Pentium power, why not get a full-on multimedia setup? Twinhead's Slimnote 875TX packs more features than any portable PC

we've seen, including a removable double-speed CD-ROM drive that can be swapped out for a floppy drive or a second battery. Its two speakers support 16-bit integrated sound. In addition, the notebook features a 10.4- inch active-matrix color display, infrared, and lithium-ion batteries.

Usability eers high marks as

well, thanks to the Slimnote 875TX's eminently readable LED display for system status. Also, there's a TouchPad pointing device that rivals both big trackballs and IBM's widely licensed pointing stick as the new standard for notebook pointers. The Slimnote 875TX's performance, however, was just slightly better than the Ascentia 950N's. Faster video would help it immensely.

À Lesson in Design The Slimnote 875 IX could learn a few things from Zeos's Meridian 850, which was the fastest 75MHz Pentium notebook we tested. The Meridian 850's performance outpaced the Ascentia 950N by 39 percent thanks to pedal-to-the-metal video.

The Meridian 850's feature set is standard for a Pentium: 16-bit audio, a removable 810MB hard drive (545MB is standard), and dual PC Card Type II slots. However, the 9.5inch active-matrix display is nearly an inch smaller than the other displays in this roundup (a dual-scan passive-matrix version is available as well). In addition, this is the only one of the five systems to still use nickel-metal hydride batteries, which had a charge life of just 2 hours and 38 minutes. At 6.7 pounds, the Meridian 850 is also hefty for a notebook.

Even so, this is a handsome machine, and with prices starting at less than \$3,500 (though our test system cost \$4,890), the Meridian 850 makes a powerful case for abandoning 486 computing once and for all.

In the end, we would recommend the long-lived Latitude XPi for road-bound work and the Slimnote 875TX as a desktop replacement, thanks to its multimedia prowess and rich feature set. Both of these machines clearly define the new standard for mobile computing. MARTY JEROME

FILEBOX

MSCellua 930	110
Usability	**
Performance	4
Technology	*1
Verdict	**
Long battery life.	
AST Research (800) 876-4278	

\$5,498 est. street price Reader Service No. 661 Latitude XPi

Isability	****
erformance	****15
echnology	***%
erdict	****
lodest features,	but It's fast.
ell Computer	
300) 613-3355	

\$4,198 est. street price Reader Service No. 662

Packed with features, but a midlevel performer. Texas Instruments (800) 848-3927 \$6,158 est. street price

Reader Service No. 663 Slimnote 875TX

Usability	****
Performance	***
Technology	****
Verdict	****
A CD-equipped	Pentium.

Twinhead Corp. (800) 995-8946 \$4,995 est. street price Reader Service, No. 664

Meridian 850

Usability	***
Performance	****
Technology	***15
Verdict	***
Fast and easy on	your wallet.

Zeos Int'l (800) 554-5218 \$4,890 est. street price Reader Service No. 665



Portable Élan: Removable hard drives and lithium-ion batteries are now standard fare in Pentium portables from (left to right) Twinhead, AST, and Texas Instruments.

Performance Test: Portable Power

Programme and the second	39% Faster		2:31
ZEOS MERSO WAI 850		ZEDS MERIDIAN 850	
-	29% Faster	4500	3:24
DELL LATITUDE XPI		DELL LATITUDE XPI	
COLUMNIC	27% Faster	200000000000000000000000000000000000000	3:3
TRAVELMATE 5000		TRAVELMATE 5000	
-	3% Faster	Not Applicable	
TWINNEAD SLINOVOYE 875TX		TWINHEAD SLIMNOTE 875TX	
	Baseline	Not Applicable	
AST ASCENTIA 950N		AST ASCENTIA 950N	

The Rundown: They're fast, but battery life is fleeting. We were unable to test for battery results on the prototype Twinhead and AST portables in this review.

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Great Prices, No Pressure

WinFax Scanner, Personal Document Station, PageReader, Page Office

Put Paper into Your PC

Getting a document out of your SNEAK PC and onto paper PREVIEW is easy; it's getting the paper into your PC for electronically storing, sorting, and editing that's been the hard (and expensive) part. However, a new breed of sheet-fed scanners aims to make paper input as easy and affordable as paper output. The equivalent of paper floppy drives for your PC, these hardware-software bundles offer an easy, elegant way

to tame the paper tiger. They

also make excellent fax/copier

solutions for any home office.

We evaluated four of the newest personal page scanners to hit the market: Delrina's WinFax Scanner, Epson's Personal Document Station, Plustek's PageReader 800, and Umax's PageOffice. They follow close on the heels of Visioneer's trailblazing Paper-Port (see "Getting Ahead in the Paper Chase," June, page 68), and in addition to a tiny footprint, each includes popup software that prompts you through convenient faxing, copying, scanning, and OCR.

TechnoWonders All four of these devices are black-andwhite page scanners that focus primarily on text scanning, although they also include 256-grayscale and photo halftone modes. In addition, these devices are incredibly affordable: the PageReader 800 costs a mere \$169, while the others check in at under \$499-less than you'd pay for either a decent stand-alone fax machine or a personal copier. And even if you had both of those clunkers on your desk, you still wouldn't



Page Readers: Move paper from your desk to your hard drive with (clockwise from top) Umax's PageOffice, Delrina's WinFax Scanner, Plustek's PageReader, and Epson's Personal Document Station.

PICKS PERSONAL SCANNERS		
Superb drag document m		Visioneer PaperPort
Best all-arous software but		Delrina WinFax Scanner
Basic scann less than \$1		Plustek PageReader 800

Paper Floppy Drives: Personal page scanners are new to the desktop, but there are already five models to choose from. Of the five, the PageReader 800, WinFax Scanner, and PaperPort stand out.

enjoy the integration that the PageReader 800 delivers.

The PageReader 800 is similar to the PaperPort in that it boasts a featherweight slim profile and incorporates the new Contact Image Sensor (CIS) technology in which a light source and image sensor are combined in one unit. The

PageOffice use the more established charge-coupled device (CCD) technology in which a light source reflects images through a separate optical lens. This makes them about twice as heavy as the PageReader 800 and rounder—about the size of

WinFax Scanner, the Personal

Document Station, and the

FILEBOX

WinFax Scanner

Usability ****
Technology ****

Verdict ****

An excellent bundle with

WinFax software. Minimum System

Requirements: 8MB of RAM, 14MB hard disk.

\$299 est. street price Delnna Corp. (800) 268-6082 Reader Service No. 666

Personal Document Station

Usability ****
Technology ****
Verdict ****

Perfect for photos and OCR.
Minimum System
Requirements: 8MB of RAM.

24MB hard disk.
\$499 est. street price

(800) 289-3776 PageReader 800

Usability ***5
Technology ****5
Verdict ***
Least expensive, but software

could be more usable.
Minimum System
Requirements: 8MB of RAM.

20MB hard disk. \$169 est, street price Plustek USA

(800) 685-8088 Reader Service No. 668

Usability *****
Technology ****

Verdict ****
Robust, intuitive page management software.

Minimum System
Requirements: 8MB of RAM,

20MB hard drive. \$399 est. street price Umax Technologies (800) 562-0311 Reader Service No. 669

Guide to the Ratings:

**** Excellent

**** Good

*** Acceptable

**Poor

* Unacceptable

New! HARDWARE: WinFax Scanner, Personal Document Station, PageReader, Page Office

a rolled up Sunday newspaper.

The Personal Document Station and the PageReader fit comfortably between your keyboard and monitor, but the 10-page sheet feeders of the WinFax Scanner and the PageOffice take paper from above, so they need to be set off to the side. All four scan between 4 and 6 pages per minute at 200 dpi, which is fine for faxing or basic OCR, and all can handle anything from business cards to legalsized pages, Additionally, the WinFax Scanner, PageReader 800, and PageOffice are capable of scanning at 300 dpi. The Personal Document Station can go to 400 dpi, which is particularly helpful for scanning photographs.

Care and Feeding If you have ever installed a standard flatbed scanner, you'll be pleasantly surprised by how easy these scanners are to set up. As with the PaperPort, WinFax Scanner and Personal Document Station simply plug into an available serial or parallel port on the back of your PC. The Personal Document Station requires a bidirectional parallel port or its bundled controller card. But even the installation of the 8-bit controller cards for the PageReader 800 and the PageOffice went smoothly, and software installation was also straightforward. In short, these four scanners require minimal care and feeding.

Each device comes with its own unique bundle of applications that's highly integrated with its desktop software and loaded as part of a single procedure. And each device is intelligent enough to automatically recognize other programs on your hard disk—fax, word processing, and OCR software—and bring them into its software as appropriate.

The WinFax Scanner, Personal Document Station, and PageReader 800 are TWAIN

GHIDED TOUR

COMPLETE DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT TOOLS



Need a Quick Fax? Delrina's WinFax Scanner features WinFax Pro 4.0, the premier software for sending and receiving faxes.



Drag and File: Umax's PageOffice includes PageFile software, which has a Windows File Manager-like interface and drag-and-drop desktop tools for easy image management.



OCR software for Plustek's PageReader 800 is rough around the edges, but the price (\$169) can't be beat. The featherweight PageReader also fits easily between your keyboard and CPU or monitor.



Fine Detail: Epson's Personal Document Station offers highresolution scans and Xerox's feature-rich OCR.

compliant, so they will not only recognize popular programs with built-in hooks but future TWAIN-compliant programs as well.

Distinguishing Features Since all four scanners include the same broad range of hardware functions, their software bundles-in addition to footprint and price-really make a difference. Delrina's bundled WinFax Pro 4.0, for example, puts the WinFax Scanner ahead of most stand-alone fax machines; it even starts faxing as soon as sheets are dropped into the feeder. On the other hand, the Personal Document Station's high resolution and feature-rich OCR are perfect for scanning photos for DTP.

The PageReader 800's document management is hardly better than File Manager (though it's due for an upgrade before year's end), while the Page-Office's software is easily the best of the four reviewed here. Application icons are arranged along a tool ribbon at the bottom of its desktop, and you simply drag and drop the image of a scanned-in page over one of the icons to launch its function. As rich as it is, though, the Page-Office's software still falls short of the PaperPort's unparalleled five-star usability.

For now, the \$369 Paper-Port remains the best choice for cutting the paper on your desk down to size. Right behind it, however, is Umax's \$399 Page. Office. Definia \$259 WinFax Scanner, meanwhile, is an excellent addition to the fax package on the market. The \$169 PageReader 800 is the most affordable of the bunch, but its software could use some work. And the higher price of the Personal Document Station (\$499) makes sense only if you need 400-dpi scanning resolution for photographs or OCR.

Whichever one of the devices you choose, having a personal document scanner can work wonders for controlling the avalanche of paper that sometimes traps us all. Then work—and life—will become so much more convenient that you'll wonder how you ever lived without one. MIKE HOGAN



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Superfast 6X CD-ROM

You can't have multimedia without CD-ROMs, and you can't have

good multimedia without a fast CD-ROM drive. Hot on the heels of the first six-space CD-ROM drive from Plextor (see "The Fastest CD-ROM Drive Ever," June, page 67). NEC and Wearnes are also spinning six-speed drives onto the desktop—at prices that rival those of the latest quad-speed drives to hit the streets.

6X SCSI NIEC'S MultiSpin 6Xe six-speed SCSI CD-ROM drive incorporates the same design standards of its wellknown family of CD-ROM drives. With a throughput of 990K Bys, the MultiSpin 6Xe is 50 percent faster than NIEC's quad-speed drives and 200 percent faster than its double-speed drives. And Decause the Multi-Spin 6Xe is a SCSI device, it makes fewer demands on a system's processor than Enhanced IDF (EIDE) devices.

The MultiSpin 6Xe is the first CD-ROM drive to meet the Plug-and-Play standard. The advantage? If your PC is equipped with a Plug-and-Play SCSI card, simply attach the MultiSpin 6Xe to the card and you're through with the installation. No more SCSI hassles. That alone is worth the price of admission. Another bonus is that NEC now ships its CD Explorer software with the MultiSpin 6Xe drive. This set of utilities lets you analyze the CD-ROM that's in your drive, change drive letter assignments without rebooting, and perform other useful tricks.

An LCD panel on the front of the MultiSpin 6Xe offers drive status reports, and external audio controls let you adjust the audio of your discs. The



Six Spin: These six-speed CD-ROM drives achieve similar speeds, but the Weames CDD-320 (top) takes the EIDE bus path and NEC's MultiSpin 6Xe uses a SCSI interface and supports full Plug and Play.

Dusting Quads: NEC's MultiSpin 6Xe and the Wearnes CDD-320 match the speed of Plextor's 6Plex and are 50 percent faster than quadspeed drives.



FILEBOX

WuttiSpin 6Xe
Usability ****5
Performance ****5
Technology ****
Verdict ****15
Six-speed Plug-and-Play SCSI

CD-ROM for under \$500.
Competition: Plextor's 6Plex is slightly more expensive and lacks Plug-and-Play support.

Throughput Speed: 909KBps. \$599 est. street price for

\$599 est, street price for external, \$499 for internal NEC Technologies (800) 632-4636, (708) 860-9500 Reader Service No. 670

Wearnes CDD-320
Usability
Performance
Technology
Verdict

Fast EIDE implementation, but high CPU overhead.

Competition: None; this is the first EIDE six-speed CD-ROM drive to hit the desktop.

Throughput Speed: 910KBps. \$350 est, street price

\$350 est, street price Wearnes Peripherals Int'l (408) 432-1888 Reader Service No. 671

drive also comes in an internal version called the MultiSpin 6Xi that meets the same hardware specifications. EIDE Alternative Unlike

the SCSI-based MultiSpin 6Xe, the Wearnes CDD-320 is an internal drive that uses an EIDE interface to deliver throughput at speeds of up to 910KBps. Wearnes has also implemented a 256K look-ahead cache to push your data through just a little bit faster. The hitch? In the

Weames has also implemented a 256k look-ahead cache to push your data through just a little bir faster. The hitch? In the case of this or any EIDE CD-ROM drive that approaches these speeds, the CPU overhead is very high. This means that while the drive is reading data from a disc, you won't be able to do much else.

The Wearnes CDD-320 gets

high marks for usability and ease of installation. Pop the disc in, type the install command, reboot, and you're done—it's absolutely painless. Because this is an EIDE drive, it will plug right in to the EIDE slot on the motherboard of any PC sold in the past year.

There are separate controls on the front of the drivefor controlling audio CDs. A single flashing light on the case tells you when the drive is busy, although it lacks another light to indicate whether or not the drive is powered on—a feature found on many SCSI CD-ROMdrives. With a street price of just \$350, this is chaper than many quad-speed drives on the market, which makes in

an excellent choice for most CD-ROM uses.

Both the MultiSpin 6Xe and the Wearnes CDD-320 match the speed record set by the 6Plex. If your CD-ROM drive needs aren't extremely demanding but you crave speed, the Wearnes CDD-320 is an excellent choice. And because it's an EIDE drive, it works in most systems without requiring an additional controller. If you want the advantages of SCSI with speed, however, the Multi-Spin 6Xe is the drive you should consider, particularly since it also supports Plug and Play. But for a SCSI drive that won't monopolize system CPU time, Plextor's 6Plex still leads the pack. BENJAMIN F. MILLER

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Low-Cost, High-Impact Color

Blame it on the eve-catching color output or the irresistibly low street prices. Whatever it is, today's ink-jet printers practically beg you to pick them up and take them home. The latest temptation is from Hewlett-Packard. The DeskJet 660C replaces the impressive Desk let 560C and adds faster print speeds, better-looking output, and a lower price (\$499). Suddenly there's more reason than ever to consider a color-capable ink jet over a traditional monochrome laser printer.

The Desklet 560C was already an easy printer to use, and we found that the Desk let 660C was equally easy to set up. The main enhancements to this model are in the hardware: The DeskJet 660C sports a more streamlined design and does away with all front-panel controls except for a simple power switch and an online switch. Now you control the printer from software-a welcome usability enhancement that means you don't have to trot down the hall to the printer to get feedback or make adjustments after an alert.

Plug and Go As with the DeskJet 560C, software setup is user friendly. The ColorSmart



replacement for the DeskJet 560C, features higher resolution black-and-white text output plus some welcome enhancements and a lower price tag. Color output is brighter and richer, print speeds are considerably faster, and easy-to-use software controls replace the front-panel buttons of the older DeskJets.

feature that we first saw in the Desklet 560C for optimizing color output is still included so you can configure the printer to produce your documentswhether they're text or color photographs-at their optimum settings.

The DeskJet 660C sports 600-by-600-dpi black output (up from 600-by-300 dpi in the Desklet 560C) and 600-

by-300-dpi color output (up from 300 dpi). While impressive, it still can't top the 720-by-720-dpi resolution of Epson's Stylus Color Printer.

Proof on the Page We did notice some significant enhancements to the DeskJet 660C's color output in comparison to its younger sibling's pages. Colors are radiant, and the Desklet 660C's gradients are much smoother than the Desk Jet 560C's.

Printing the same images on coated paper proved to be disappointing, however, and flesh tones appeared rosy. Tinkering with the ColorSmart driver improved the output somewhat, but photos still looked better on plain paper with the default setting, Epson's Stylus Color still offers smoother output, especially with fine detail.

Text output on the Desklet 660C was outstanding. We couldn't detect much of a difference from the Desk Jet 560C, FILEBOX

DeskJet 660C Usahility Performance

Technology Still one of the finest color ink-iet printers around.

Competition: Enson's \$699 Stylus Color costs a bit more but offers better color at slower speeds. The DeskJet 660C could also face a challenge from Lexmark's WinWriter 150C and Okidata's Okijet 2010, both of which should be available soon.

Maximum Resolution: 600 by 600 dpi (black and white), 600 by 300 dpi (color).

Cost per Page: 4 cents (black). 11 cents (color). \$499 est. street price Hewlett-Packard (800) 752-0900 Reader Service No. 672

which also offers very good text printing.

The Desklet 660C is built for speed-more so than its younger sibling. We were able to print a 3-page presentation on plain paper in just over 12 minutes. The same document took nearly 30 minutes with the Desk let 560C. The Desk-Jet 660C also prints circles around Epson's Stylus Color, requiring less than one-third the time to print the same 3page presentation. There's nothing about the

DeskJet 660C that's a breakthrough in ink-jet technology. Compared to the Desk let 560C. it's simply more of a good thing: faster speeds, enhanced color output, and a lower price. But for high quality at an affordable price, the Stylus Color leads the pack. For consistent performance, though, the Desklet 660C is a solid enhancement of the tried-and-true Desk let 560C. KYLA K. CARLSON





did a fine job printing complex color photographs on plain paper. Its higher resolution makes for smoother gradients, more realistic flesh tones, and finer detail than the older DeskJet 560C (right).

Guide to the Ratings:

**** Excellent

**** Good

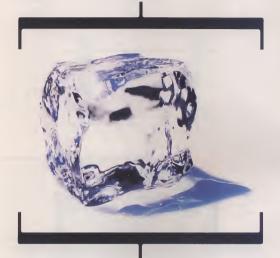
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Scan It, Fax It, and Print Some Color

If you've been eyeing the all-inone convenience of a multifuntion fax-copier-printer for your dependence of the copier of the copier you're in luck. Lexmark's Medley'4x offers all the advartages of multifunction devices (MEDs) like Hewlett-Packard's Office-Jet LX (see "Multifunction Miracle Machines," July, page 63), but throws color inle-jet printing into the bargain as well.

The \$999 Medley 4x costs the same as Brother's original MFC-4500ML and is just as easy to use, but it has a smaller footprint. And although Brother's MFC-4500ML includes a laser engine, if you can live with ink-jet quality, Lexmark's Medley 4x gives you color output for the same price.

Quick Start Installation and setup of the Medley 4x is straightforward: Just plug it in, and you'll be faxing and printing within 15 minutes. Clearly labeled front-panel buttons let you operate the Medley 4x's fax machine and scanner through hardware, or you can use the included software utilities to manage them directly from your PC.

While the Medley 4x's color printing is a nice advantage, its implementation could have been handled a bit better. Because this is a single-cartridge printer, you must decide between printing only black or printing color with a composite black. In addition, you need to switch your printer driver whenever you want to switch carbicotte shift in the control of the control of

On the plus side, the Medley 4x contains a garage for storing the color or black cartridge you're not using. Also, the printer drivers are informative and easy to use, especially the ColorFine drivers that let you tune the print colors to your liking.

Text output from the Medley 4x was adequate, although the characters weren't as crisp as those produced by the multifunction OfficeJet LX or dedicated color ink jets such as HP's DeskJet 660C or Epson's Stylus Color. The color output, however, was vibrant.

Slow Text Output speeds were unimpressive. The Medley 4x was slower than any of the other MFDs we've tested at printing text pages and about four times slower than Brother's MFC-4500ML. Color printing, however, was on par with full-fledged color ink jets like the DeskJet 660C or the Stylus Color.

For managing faxing and scanning, Lexmark bundles Danka's FAXsynergy fax software with the Medley 4x. The Medley's 300-dpi grayscale scanner lets you fax hard copy or simply photocopy pages.

Overall, the Medley 4x is a smart choice if you want the versatility of an MFD and a color printer in one compact box. But if you don't need to print color, the Brother MFC-4500ML is a better buy for its laser output and faster speeds.

KYLA K. CARLSON AND RICH SCHWERIN

FILEBOX

Wedley 4x
Usability
Performance
Technology
Verdict

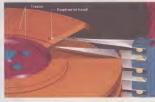
Verdict ****
The first fax-printer-scanner
with color ink-jet output.
Competition: HP's OfficeJet LX,
Brother's MFC-4500ML, and
Xerox's 3002 offer similar
faxing capabilities, but none
offers color printing.

Components: 14.4Kbps fax modem, 600-dpi monochrome printing, 300-dpi color printing, and 300-dpi scanning/copying. 5990 est. street price Lexmark Int'l (800) 358-5835 *Reader Service No. 674*



Medley ax's output is competitive with most ink jets, although Hewlett-Packard's Officialet LX delivers crisper text. Color output is rich and vibrant; composite blacks aren't as impressive as true black, but they don't have an annoying greenish tint either.

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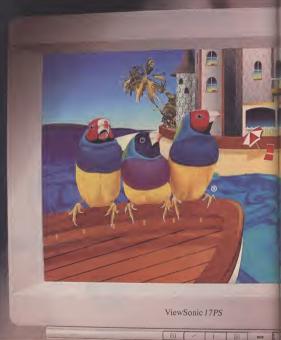
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phone-fax-modem-sound card hybrid, makes small businesses appear big, especially to outside callers greeted with its voice-mail and fax options.

The Phone Blaster comes with Kalman Technologies' Ancilla, an easy-to-use telephony management system. And while it's similar to Diamond Multimedia's TeleCommander 2500XL (see "Hello? This Is the Future Calling," May, page 76), the Phone Blaster adds a full-duplex speakerphone, more mailboxes, a unified message center, WAV file support, and text-to-speech software-all for just \$50 more.

Phone Power Ancilla's voice-mail and fax capabilities are impressive, but first you have to get past configuring the Phone Blaster board. With an RI-11 jack and ports for a microphone, speakers, joystick or CD-ROM drive, there are plenty of I/O, IRQ, and DMA settings to be checked, tested, and tweaked. But once you get past the board setup, loading and using Ancilla and the other applications is a breeze.

All telephony management takes place in Ancilla. This is where you set up and configure password-protected voice mail (up to 9,000 mailboxes) and detailed fax-on-demand directories. For a quick start, Ancilla ships with prerecorded menu choices, which you can easily adapt and rerecord.

Ancilla's onscreen telephone looks like a typical 12-key keypad and has one-button dialing from your Ancilla Phone Book (you can also import contact



Could You Get That? Bring the power of a corporate PBX to your home office with Creative Labs' Phone Blaster. which combines a data/fax modem, sound card, and software.

All-in-One Center: Phone Blaster packs a 14.4Kbps data/fax modem and Sound Blaster 16 audio card with full-duplex speakerphone, voice mail, a fax-back system, Caller ID, and software into one bundle.

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and delete messages and faxes.

where you manage, forward, store,

B. While you work on other programs.

Ancilla runs in the background and

notifies you of incoming calls, which

you can answer, screen, or ignore.

C. The Ancilla Phone interface is a

FILEBOX

Phone Blaster Usability Technology Verdict

Complete, easy-to-use, telephony solution.

Competition: Diamond Multimedia Systems' Command Center 1440, Rest Data Products' Ace5000, and Spectrum Signal Processing's OfficeF/X all offer similar phone-PC integration, but none matches the Phone Blaster's hundled hardware and software utilities at this price.

Minimum System Requirements: 486, 8MB of RAM, 4MB of hard-disk space. DOS 3.3. Windows 3.1.

Includes: Data/fax modem. Sound Blaster 16 audio card with full-duplex speakerphones. and Kalman Technologies' Ancilla telephony management system, which features voice mail and fax.

\$249 est, street price (800) 998-5227, (408) 428-6600 Reader Service No. 675

information from any other PIM or contact manager). All of your calls, faxes, and data file transfers are stored in the Message Center, and you can easily append and forward these to other mailboxes. Faxes are viewed in a basic image viewer that lets you size, rotate, and scale them in a variety of graphic file formats. And while Ancilla does have an option for edge smoothing, there's no OCR package (something we'd like to see in a future release).

But Wait, There's More The Phone Blaster permits pager notification of new phone calls, which is a handy way to retrieve messages and faxes. But it supports only one phone line, so no more than one person can dial in at a time. Creative Labs' Text-Assist aims for a tough but potentially useful market: It's a text-to-speech application that reads text files to you, but it's somewhat limited. Better are the audio utilities that take advantage of the Sound Blaster 16 card and the client software for Prodigy, America Online, CompuServe, and The Imagi-Nation Network—all available through the Phone Blaster's 14.4Kbps modem.

The full-duplex speakerphone that's included is great for talking with your hands free and screening calls in the background while you work on other applications. A dialog box notifies you of an incoming call and lets you choose to either answer it, screen it, or let Ancilla pick it up (the default setting). Ideally you can set the default to your own preferences.

The Phone Blaster also supports Caller ID and Radish Communications' VoiceView. a technology that lets you send data files during a voice conversation, With Caller ID you can also log the phone numbers of people who hang up on you, but it's not available in all areas.

For the home office, custom-built corporate telephony systems and PBXs are still priced out of reach. But Creative Labs' \$249 Phone Blaster offers many of the same features-such as voice mail and extensive faxing-at a friendly price. RICH SCHWERIN

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Illustrate Your Point: CorelDraw, the all-in-one graphics suite from Corel, will make the move to Windows 95 as soon as the operating system ships. Version 6 adds 3-D imaging. OLE 2, and other tricks.

Fast Slides: Corel

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CorelDraw 6
Usability

Performance ****
Verdict ****
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486DX2 or faster, 8MB of RAM (16MB recommended), Windows 95, CD-ROM drive.

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Tools: CorelDraw 6 (drawing and Illustration software), Photo-Paint 6 (image editing software), Corel Presents (presentation graphics), CorelDream 3D (3-D illustration software), Corel Motion 3D (3-D logo animation utility), Corel Multimedia Manager, Corel OCR - Irrace (OCR and rastet-to-vector

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CorelDraw 6

The Premier One-Stop Graphics Shop

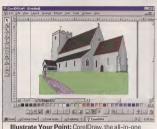
CorelDraw 5, the highly respected Windows drawing program that's accompanied by a kitchen sink's

accompanied by a kitchen sink? worth of graphics software, is getting even bigger. CorelDraw 6 adds 3-D imaging and a new presentations package to its roster of art tools, plus integrated e-mail and fax functions, and support for the 32-bit environment of Windows 95.

Master Palette There's no shortage of tools to occupy your attention. The CD-ROM includes Corell Draw 6, Photo-Paint 6, the new Corel Presents, and Corell Dream Designer. The disc also includes a host of utilities, such as 3-D logo and tracing programs and a runtime player. That's not to mention the more than 25,000 clip-art images, 1,000 photos, and 1,000 fonts—to name just a few of the extra-

The biggest improvement in the core drawing program may be its support for larger page sizes. Previously limited to 30 square inches, CorelDraw now handles pages as big as 150 square feet, making it useful for banners, posters, and largescale signs. There are a number of new drawing tools in the program as well-including polygon and knife tools-plus text-handling refinements. Version 6 even supports OLE 2 and the MAPI/TAPI standard for sending e-mail and faxes from within CorelDraw.

As a full 32-bit application, CorelDraw 6 should be faster and handle large images better than previous versions. And indeed, it was noticeably faster



Illustrate Your Point: Coreil/raw, the all-in-one graphics suite from Corel, will make the move to Windows 95 as soon as the operating system ships. Version 6 adds 3-D imaging, OLE 2, and other tricks.

Fast Slides: Corel Presents, the new multimedia presentation package included with CorelDraw 6, has wizards and templates that make building slides paging



in loading and redrawing images in our tests, even ones created in CorelDraw 5. Still, it's impossible to draw definitive conclusions about performance until both Windows 95 and CorelDraw ship.

Artist's Assistant Corel has also addressed the fact that CorelDraw can be unwieldly and difficult to learn given the breadth of its features and side-kick programs. CorelDraw still overwhelms, but the company has addeed online tutorials, wizards, and other help options to smooth out the bumps. Also, a relatively consistent user a relatively consistent user

interface stretches across all of the CD-ROM's applications.

As before, Photo-Paint does the painting and photo retouching for bitmap images with a wide range of editing and filtering options. Corel Presents, the new presentations component, lets you piece together a multimedia show. It includes 1,200 animated "actors" and dozens of sound effects, in addition to templates, backgrounds, and libraries of clip art. Corel-Dream, which is excellent for creating surreal 3-D landscapes, is a superb complement to both Corel Presents and CorelDraw.

FILEBOX

CorelDraw 6
Usability
Performance

Verdict ****
A comprehensive collection of sophisticated and accessible graphics tools.

System Requirements: 66MHz 486DX2 or faster, 8MB of RAM (16MB recommended), Windows 95, CD-ROM drive.

Tools: CorelDraw 6 (drawing and illustration software). Photo-Paint 6 (image editing software). Corel Presents (presentation graphics). CorelDream 3D (3-D illustration software). Corel Motion 3D (3-D logo animation utility). Corel Multimedia Manager, Corel OCR-Trace (OCR and raster-to-vector conversion). Corel Font Master (font manager), image browser and related utilities, 25,000 clip-art images, and more than 1.000 photos and fonts. S699 est, street price (800) 772-6735, (613) 728-8200

Unlike CorelDraw 5, however, our beta version didn't have a copy of the Ventura desktop publishing application (as of this writing Corel had not decided whether to include it or offer it as a separate product).

Reader Service No. 676

If only one or two of these modules strikes your fancy, CorelDraw 6 may not be your best bet. Its hefty size and price (expected to be about \$700) will work against you. But if you can take advantage of even half its power, the all-in-one graphics approach of CorelDraw 6 makes it a time and money.

Guide to the Ratings:

**** Excellent

**** Good

*** Acceptable

**Poor

* Unacceptable

Turn Your Faxes into File Transfers

Fax a 20-page document as a single page? Send pictures by fax and have them arrive in full color? Fax a video clip or a sound bite? This is no fax fantasy. A novel communications utility from InfoImaging Technologies called 3D Fax can perform these and other minor miracles by converting binary files such as text, color graphics, and executable program files into image patterns that can be sent and received by fax modem or fay machine. Essentially, it's file transfer by fax,

Info in the Image The procedure is fairly simple. First you use the 3D Fax software to select a file that you want to convert into an image pattern or "Infolmage." The program then compresses the file and converts it into one or more dense blocks comprising tiny dots and lines. The result looks like a monochromatic square of dots-and nothing of any value to prying eyes. You can even add a password to the file to keep other 3D Fax users from being able to read it.

The amount of compression you achieve and the resulting number of fax pages varies. A 32K three-page text file, for example, became a 16K compressed file and single-page fax. Compression with pictures depends on the content of the file. In our tests, a 75K PCX file was reduced to a singlepage fax, but a 50K PCX file would not compress at all and required four fax pages. We had the most luck with basic text files. A 50-page text document compressed easily to just two fax pages.

When sending picture files as faxes, 3D Fax gives you several ways to control the trade-off between speed and quality, including varying the



Fax Attach: An add-on utility for existing fax packages, 3D Fax lets you attach long documents, graphics, sound bites, multimedia files, and even executable program files to your paper faxes by converting them into compressed "Infolmages."





file compression ratio. The more you compress a file, the fewer number of pages it requires—although you do sacrifice image quality.

Once a file is converted, 3D Fax saves it and cues your faxing software (such as Delrina's WinFax Pro) for delivery by fax modem. You can also print the file and send it using a stand-alone fax machine. Similarly, 3D Fax files can be received by either a fax modem or a fax miachine.

Fax Transformation 3D Fax is used on the receiving end to convert the Infolmage back into a usable file. When the image is received on a fax modem, it's a simple matter of reversing the process and converting the Infolmage back into

a readable file. But if the Infolmage is on paper (from a fax machine), it has to be scanned into your PC with a handheld or flatbed scanner. And since each scan (first the fax machine, then the scanner) degrades the image at least slightly, the odds increase that there will be difficulty converting the image back into a readable file.

We had no trouble sending images from one fax modem to another, but got only about a 75 percent success rate using a fax machine and a scanner. Indeed, Infolmaging Technologies apparently, acknowledges this in the way the program was designed. For faxes to standalone fax machines, the program breaks images into four blocks per page so you can blocks per page so you can

FILEBOX

3D Fax
Usability
Technology
Verdict
****12
A terrific invention for file
transfer by fax.
Competition: None.
System Requirements: 4MB of

System Requirements: 4MB of RAM, 10MB of hard-disk space, Windows 3.1, external fax machine or fax modem and fax software, flatbed scanner for converting hard copy (optional).

Features: Lets users send and receive text, color images, audio files, executable files, and other multimedia data files using standard fax technology.

Versions: Standard edition

sends and receives data files; professional edition also sends and receives executable files and includes the option to password-protect faxes. 596 est. street price for standard edition, 5199 for professional edition infolmaging Technologies (800) 986-1140.

selectively resend unreadable blocks. There's even an option to automatically transmit each block twice when sending to fax machines. By contrast, you can send only whole-page blocks when transmitting files to other fax modems.

These limitations notwithstanding, 3D Fax works as advertised. The real question is, with PCs and modems at each end, why not transfer the files directly and avoid all of the rigmarole? If you have a reasonably fast modem and access to a network or online service that handles file transfers, it's a very good question indeed. But if fax is your lifeline, 3D Fax is an intriguing low-cost alternative to cumbersome PC-to-PC file CHRIS O'MALLEY transfers.

TO BUY ADOBE PAGEMAKER 5.0.



age crades. Are lawstern of Dourn, Mortell Dougs, Mortel-Gow, YED Dougs, Adole-hyp., Adole

Windows 95 Without the Overhead

Odds are that if vou're a Windows SMEAK 3.1 user, you'll up-PREVIEW grade to Windows 95 at some point. But not

everyone will be able to run Windows 95, at least not right away. Notebooks and desktop systems equipped with 4MB of RAM (or even 8MB) and desktop PCs with limited hard-disk space won't have the resources to make the upgrade.

Fortunately, there's Starfish Software's Dashboard, Version 3.0 of this very popular Windows shell incorporates some of the old features that made Dashboard a success and a few new features that turn your existing Windows 3.1 desktop into a pseudo-Windows 95 desktop-without the steep hardware overhead

Familiar Face At first glance the new Dashboard looks a lot like its predecessors. which means veteran users can plunge into it without hesitation. Still part of the program are Quick Launch, the singleclick menu of buttons for running up to 64 applications directly from within Dashboard; Extended Screens, a virtual desktop manager that emulates multiple monitors and lets you switch between fullscreen views of all open applications; and the familiar calendar.

But look closely and you'll notice a few differences, Along the left side of the screen there are tiny buttons for "snapping" parts of Dashboard off and on. You can detach the Program Menu (the row of Program Manager groups that runs across the top of Dashboard), the Quick Launch pad, and the printer panel, and turn them into floating toolbars on your desktop to thoroughly customize your interface.



Just a Facade: This desktop may look like it's running Windows 95, but it's actually a Windows for Workgroups 3.11 desktop running Dashboard 3.0, As with Windows 95, the Taskbar (at bottom) lets you switch between applications with a single click.



Windows 95: Starfish will ship Dashboard 95. a Windows 95 version of Dashboard, shortly after the new OS ships. A. Tool tips, also called fly-dver help or balloon help, are available everywhere. B. The Dashboard Taskbar looks and feels like Windows 95, and includes single-click

task switching and auto-hide C. Resource gauges and a drive monitor display the status of system resources

like memory and disk space D. Run any application from the Dashboard Run dialog box. Dashboard remembers your previous commands so

you can always scroll back and rerun an application you launched weeks ago. E. The Quick Launch toolbar displays icons for applications you want to launch

with a single mouse click.

But the best feature in Dashboard 3.0-and the one that we would install the program for-is the Windows 95-like Taskbar that displays

the currently running applications so you can switch easily among them. Windows 95-Alike You

can have the Taskbar attached to Dashboard, or better yetto emulate the Windows 95 look and feel-vou can place the Taskbar at the bottom of the screen in an "auto hide" mode so that it appears only when you move your pointer to that part of the screen. It's even better than Windows 95's

Taskbar because it's more configurable. Other features that were inspired by Windows 95 include right-mouse-button support that functions almost everywhere in the program, comprehensive drag-and-drop printing and faxing, and printer configuration tools.

Dashboard's memory and system resource gauges can be displayed as bars. However, the Drive Watch gauge, which displays available disk space, takes up too much screen space. But as with all of Dashboard's features, you can turn it off or hide it when it's not in use. Audible alarms will then alert you when

FILEBOX

Dashboard 3.0 Heability

Performance **** **** Virtual Windows 95 interface. without the steep hardware requirements.

Competition: Symantec's Norton Desktop for Windows and PC Tools for Windows both replace Windows' Program Manager and include file and system utilities, but they also cost more.

System Requirements: 386 or faster, 3MB of hard-disk space, Windows 3.1

Options: Also available on CD-ROM with the Sidekick Deluxe personal information manager (\$49.95)

New features: Windows 95-like Taskbar with one-click application switching, Panel Manager for rearranging and detaching panels, games, oneclick DOS run command support for 64 Quick Launch buttons, and fly-over help. \$45 est street price

Starfish Software (800) 370-8963, (408) 439-0942 Reader Service No. 678

system resources fall too low.

Dashboard is still a one-disk program, so don't expect a full suite of disk and system utilities à la Symantec's Norton Desktop or PC Tools. No fancy file management, no scripting language, just a better looking interface than Program Manager can offer and an unbeatable approach to usability.

Dashboard 3.0 also comes bundled on CD-ROM with the Sidekick Deluxe personal information manager, And Starfish is developing Dashboard 95, a Windows 95 version of the utility that's expected to ship later YAEL LI-RON this year.

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Keycode #02038

Get the Business Information Edge

To stay ahead of the pack, your need to carefully track your product, your market, and your competitors. Historically, finding all of this information online required a substantial investment of time and money. But two new online interfaces from well-established information services will change that.

Both Dow Jones News/ Retrieval 3.1a and Profound are comprehensive Windowsbased online business intelligence services that tap into a wealth of database information, news, and research. Both are fast and relatively easy to use, but they differ widely in pricing and the way they present information.

Find It, Fast With Dow Jones News/Retrieval, aesthetics take a backseat to quick, useful text-based news and information. The interface uses big gray buttons, drab text windows, and sometimes confusing dialog boxes. Looks aside, though, the content is amazingly complete.

Dow Iones News/Retrieval lets you scour thousands of worldwide news services, newspapers, magazines, company and industry profiles, stock quotes, market data reports, and databases. Search by keyword, publication date, or article title, The CustomClips feature acts as your own personal online clipping service-ideal for tracking market or industry specifics across a particular publication, news wire, research database, or other source. For example, you can set up a CustomClip to track everything about biotechnology and taxation that appears in the Boston Business Journal, on 60 Minutes, and in Future Watch You'll pay a price for doing

business with Dow Jones



Searching the World: Do you need quick access to timely information? Check out Profound (above) and Dow Jones News/Retrieval 3.1a for online searches.



News You Can Use: Dow Jones News/Retrieval 3.1a is thorough but expensive. by keyword on a range of databases, including thousands of market-research surveys, newspapers, magazines, and company reports.

B. Documents are retrieved in Addho Acceptation protable.

B. Documents are retrieved in Adobe Acrobat's portable document format (PDF) so they retain the graphics, illustrations, and colors of the original publications. And because PDF is a crossplatform format, you can share data easily.

C. Profound's search engine, called **InfoSort**, simultaneously scans millions of information sources from a single query.

FILEBOX

Dow Jones News/ Retrieval 3.1a

Usability
Technology *
Verdict **
Extensive but expensive

business research.

Minimum System

Requirements: 4MB of RAM, 5MB of hard-disk space. \$19.95 per year plus \$1.50 per

1,000 characters; free software; various additional charges also apply Dow Jones (800) 522-3567, (609) 520-4000

Reader Service No. 679

Profound

Usability ****
Technology ****
Verdict ****

Powerful search tools and Adobe Acrobat documents. Minimum System

Requirements: 4MB of RAM, 8MB of hard-disk space. \$19.95 per month plus \$6.95 per hour; various additional charges also apply Profound

(800) 270-9896 Reader Service No. 680

News/Retrieval, however. Its rates are based on the information you retrieve, not the length of time you spend online. You pay an annual fee of \$19.95. Information changes run from \$5 to \$100, depending on the source, and you pay an additional \$1.50 per 1,000 characters (including spaces and returns). Setting up a CustomClip costs an additional \$15.5 month. Pictures and Words Pro-

found provides a similar mix of comprehensive data but delivers it in the Adobe Acrobat portable document format (PDF). Using Acrobat, you can read, sort, and print documents that look just like they did on the original printed pagegraphics, fonts, illustrations, and colors included.

Profound's search engine, called InfoSort, is also highly sophisticated. It can simultaneously scan millions of information sources. As a result, InfoSort searches are quick, accurate, and relevant.

Market research surveys are

Market research surveys are the cornerstone of Profound's information offerings, and they're a real bargain. Let's say you're interested in one paragraph or chart from a 100page report that costs \$5,000. Instead of purchasing the entire report, Researchline (Profound's market-research survey service) lets you purchase just the paragraph you need for as little as ten cents. And while this pricing method is similar to that of Dow Jones News/Retrieval, Profound

costs less and most information is available at no additional charge. However, Profound charges for online time: \$6.95 per hour, in addition to a \$19.95 monthly service charge.

Dow Iones News/Retrieval and Profound both deliver an extensive selection of business information. If it's out there, you'll probably find it on these services. The main differences between the two lie in presentation and cost. For quick-anddirty text searches, Dow Jones News/Retrieval offers excellent resources at a premium price. Profound, on the other hand, offers more powerful information search tools, serves up information in the slicker PDF format, and will usually cost slightly less. RICH SCHWERIN

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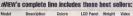
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LUMINATOR 110/115	Workhorse projectors	1.4 million	8.4 inch	37 lbs.	115
nSIGHT NS11/NS12	Monochrome projectors	16 shades of gray	8.4 inch	17 lbs.	No

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Publish Your Volumes Online

Designing and publishing long documents on a PC is no picnic. For too long desktop publishing veterans have suffered through complex applications that make elaborate formatting more hassle than it's worth. But FrameMaker, which has always made short work of long documents, now includes a host of new features and even some formatting finesse.

Perhaps you still use Page-Maker or Ventura because your long documents require Pantone spot color or process-color separations, fancy text wraps around graphics, text and object rotation, or drop caps. Well, FrameMaker 5 offers all that in addition to labor-saving features for laving out lengthy documents. When you have hundreds of pages to publish that include numbered illustrations. indexes, tables of contents, cross-references, formulas and equations, and complex tables, FrameMaker 5 can help.

Formatting Finesse Over the years FrameMaker users have assembled a laundry list of features they'd like to see added to the program, and many of these are now a reality. The latest version includes little touches like a rich text format (RTF) text import filter and more substantial improvements like multicolumn text framesall of which contribute to its enhanced usability.

One of the program's great new features is the straddle format for headlines and subheads. Choose Across All Columns and FrameMaker automatically extends a subhead with this property across all columns on the page. It also automatically balances the text columns preceding the straddle head and starts a fresh multicolumn section following it. If you try



Simply Powerful: For designing and publishing long, complex documents or electronic documents. FrameMaker 5 offers powerful layout options.



It's a Wrap: FrameMaker can now wrap text around the contours of graphics.

A. Create column-straddling subheads simply by selecting Across All Columns when creating the paragraph style.

- B. Choose the way you want to apply formatting options, either
- C. FrameMaker automatically halances text columns above
- a straddled subhead

D. Keep your numerous formatting options organized with the Paragraph Designer.

FILEBOX

FrameMaker 5 Usability Technology Verdict Automates long-document layout with unique Internet publishing tools.

Competition: Aldus's PageMaker and Corel's Ventura offer similar tools, although their Internet and long-document features are not as comprehensive as FrameMaker's, There's no Windows version of Interleaf

available vet.

System Requirements: 486 or faster, 12MB of RAM, 30MB of hard-disk space. Windows 3.1. Internet Publishing: This feature automatically turns FrameMaker documents into HTML documents for publishing on the World Wide Web. Hypertext linking is maintained throughout documents and automatically converted to HTML links.

\$895 list Frame Technology Corp. (800) 843-7263, (408) 975-6000 Reader Service No. 681

your pages, you can publish this in PageMaker, Ventura, or QuarkXPress, you'll have to do lots of manual formatting. FrameMaker has also added

some new anchoring options for automatically positioning frames in relation to your text. Run Into Paragraph lets you specify the alignment and indent (or gap) of an anchored frame that has text running around it. Specifying a left alignment places the frame in the upper left-hand corner of the paragraph, perfect for a drop cap, icon, or other fancy first character. Online Documents The

most unique features in the new FrameMaker, however, are the hooks for electronic publishing. Once you produce them on the World Wide Web. A specialized tagging system known as HyperText Markup Language (HTML) is used for Web documents, FrameMaker automates the creation of these HTML-formatted documents via its HTML mapping and conversion features.

You'll find HTML document features in other products, but FrameMaker has a leg up because hypertext linking has been one of its strong points since Version 3. All of its document links are automatically converted to HTML hypertext links, and nothing is lost in the process.

FrameMaker also takes full advantage of Adobe Acrobat

2.0, including bookmarks and cross-document links. Map bookmarks and links to your document's structure, and you can convert the files to an Acrobat portable document format (PDF) file with Acrobat Distiller.

FrameMaker 5 isn't crammed with new features. Rather it includes the main formatting features that users need while providing an array of options for applying each feature automatically without a lot of manual formatting. Even better, the complete document compatibility between its Windows, Macintosh, and Unix versions offers workgroup features that give it an advantage over its competition. BOB WEIBEL

Alexandre Patty had a rather distinctive approach to descending a staircase. Since he obviously preferred doing things the hard way, he probably wouldn't have been interested in faxing with Delrina WinFax PRO.



Given the choice between using an elevator or your head to go down a flight of stairs, you'd probably opt for the easier way, right? So if you're not already faxing with the award-winning WinFax® PRO 4.0 fax software, you should be. Because it is, quite simply, the easiest and most convenient way to send and receive faxes. By faxing with your PC, you'll save countless trips walking to the fax machine. And WinFax PRO makes sending a fax

from within any Windows application as easy as print-



ing a document. WinFax PRO is available alone or in the Debrina Communications Suite'

Organizing sent and received faxes takes just a couple of mouseclicks, and you can even schedule a fax transmission for a specific date and time in the future. So visit your local dealer today, or call 1-800-664-2782 to upgrade or to order WinFax PRO, the world's best-selling fax software. Anything less is sure to be a headache.

Year after year, Deirina WinFax PRO has won nearly every major industry award – for features like fax autoforwarding, remote retrieval and handy graphics tools, including one that lets you add your own signature. You also get dozens of ready-to-use cover pages, OCR, group faxing, drag-and-drop addressing, and you can even have a document faxed to some and e-mailed to others. No wonder PC Computing recently said, "The best fax software just got a whole lot better." DELRINA

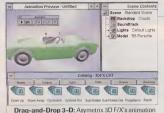
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Drag-and-Drop 3-D Drawing

To those of us who have yet to master drawing in two dimensions, the suggestion that we could create professional 3-D images and animations seems about as likely as a visit to Mars. Well, hold on to your space boots, Asymetrix 3D F/X puts amazing illustration powers within grasp regardless of your artistic know-how.

Within minutes of installing Asymetrix 3D F/X, we were able to create a 10-second animated sequence showing a car spinning into view against a blue sky. The key to this creative burst? We didn't have to create anything. Drag the image of the car and the backdrop from the program's catalog of models, drag an animation icon onto the image, and the canned sequence of movements begins. Asymetrix calls this "drag-

and-drop 3-D." We call it the best thing to happen to PC



sequences let you add motion to an image simply by choosing a routine from the catalog collection and dragging it onto the model in the preview window.

graphics since Harvard Graphics. But Asymetrix 3D F/X is more than glorified clip art. Its catalog has hundreds of models, surfaces, lighting effects, backdrops, and animation routines, so the combinations are endless.

You can even add sound tracks to scenes (with WAV files) and import new 3-D images.

When you're done, you can save your creations as stills in Windows BMP format or as animations in the AVI format.

FILEBOX

Asymetrix 3D F/X Usability Technology Verdict This is 3-D for ordinary nennle.

Competition: KPT Bryce and Ray Dream Designer also let you create stunning 3-D effects. but Asymetrix 3D F/X is by far the easiest to learn and the most affordable

System Requirements: 8MB of RAM 16MB of hard-disk space. VGA with at least 256 colors. \$69 est street price Reader Service No. 682

And you can link or embed Asymetrix 3D F/X scenes in other Windows applications via OLE 2.0. This program is nothing short of multimedia genius for the artistically challenged. CHRIS O'MALLEY

WinMaker Pro 6.0

Visual Programming 101

If you've always wanted to learn C and C++ programming but feared the fatally boring classes, Blue Sky's WinMaker Pro 6.0 is the application for you. By adopting the drag-anddrop approach of the premier programming tool, Microsoft's Visual Basic, WinMaker Pro. 6.0 guides you through the application creation process in an almost intuitive way. With the click of a button you attach a function to an object, then WinMaker Pro writes most of the code for you.

As with Visual Basic, Win-Maker Pro lets you choose buttons, text boxes, and menus



Windows programming made easy. It uses drag-and-drop tools to streamline the app-building process.

from a toolbox. Each tool/ object has a list of properties that you can easily edit by changing values in the objectspecific properties list. Win-Maker Pro also supports a context-sensitive right mousebutton that lets you format the

object's appearance and and assign it functions.

One drawback is that WinMaker Pro has no compiler. It requires the compile engine of another program to make the code work. but it supports all of the major C and C++ com-

pilers and has modules

for using both MFC- and OWL-class libraries. And while you still need to know a little C or C++ programming to push WinMaker Pro to its fullest, even beginning programmers can tap into this powerful tool. BENJAMIN F. MILLER

FILEBOX

WinMaker Pro 6.0

Usability Technology Verdict The most powerful easy-touse tool for creating C and C++ applications

Competition: Full-blown programming tools like Microsoft's Visual Basic include more sophisticated tools and a compiler.

System Requirements: 386 or faster processor, 8MB of RAM. Windows 3.1. \$499 est, street price

Blue Sky Software (800) 677-4946, (619) 459-6365 Reader Service No. 682



Your workgroups get the HP LaserJet 4V network printer. And you get \$250 off. What a steal!



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The HP LaserJet 4V with HP JetDirec card, after rebate. The HP LaserJet 4N is under \$2,500 offer rebate.

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management software, printing will be noticeably smoother for everyone involved. For more information about the printers and the rebate, see your nearest authorized HP dealer.

HP Network Printers Just what you had in mind.



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Ask for our new free catalog. Or for the name of your nearest Compaq Authorized Reseller, call 1-800-345-1518.

When we say our Sportster is the best V.34 Modem on the market,

THAT'S ADVERTISING!



BUT WHEN TWO INDEPENDENT TESTING LABS PROVE IT,

THAT'S RESEARCH.



The Sportster's big win over the biggest names in modems didn't take us by surprise. For some time we've known through our own tests and comparisons, customer feedback, press awards, ratings and above all, sales, that our True V.34™ modems were in a class by themselves.

Now two leading independent labs, TeleQuality Associates and Henderson

Communications Laboratories, report the same conclusion: in three critical measurements --Compatibility, Connect Rate and Throughput -the U.S. Robotics Sportster simply blew away the rest of the field.

In our advertising, we always say we make the best modems. Now we've got the research to prove it. Call U.S. Robotics for a summary report or the full testing methodology and findings.

0 0 - D I A L - U S R













NAW! NETWORKING

I ANtastic Power Suite

The Ideal Small-Office Network

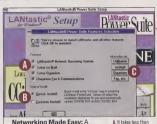
Setting up a network doesn't have to be complicated PREVIEW and expensive. No,

there's an easy way for small offices to get connected; a peerto-peer LAN. And the leader of simple-to-install, easy-touse small-business networking is Artisoft's LANtastic, So how do you keep the simplicity of LANtastic while adding functions such as e-mail, modem sharing, group scheduling and faxing, and Internet access? The answer is Artisoft's LANtastic Power Suite.

In our early preview copy of Power Suite, we tested its combination of LANtastic 6.1. Lotus cc:Mail, Lotus Organizer, Chevenne's BitWare and Bit-Share, and NetCom's Net-Cruiser. Not only has Artisoft successfully integrated a bestof-breed bundle but the company has priced it to fly off the shelves: A single-user pack sells for just \$199.

Easy Street All of the applications in Power Suite come on a single CD-ROM and share a unified installation routine. Even tough installation decisions are made simple with this disc. Ouestions like where to put your cc:Mail post office or which system will house the shared modems are explained in plain English. Our network was up and running with full e-mail, group scheduling, and modem and printer sharing in less than an hour.

In the past, one downside to using inexpensive peer-to-peer LANs was a lack of utilities. Power Suite has addressed this shortcoming by integrating e-mail and scheduling software



Networking Made Easy: A complete small-office network for less than \$200? That's what you get

with Artisoft's LANtastic Power Suite, which includes top-notch networking applications.

Total Control: Whether it's e-mail. printer control, user setup, or chats with another network user. LANtastic Power Suite lets you manage it all.

C. From a single

the programs that will he installed on each system in your network. B. You can install Power Suite the easy way by accepting the default settings, or you can specify the location of your post office and group scheduling database.

30 minutes to choose

menu, any program in Power Suite can be customized before you start the installation.

FILEBOX

1 AMtastic **Power Suite** Usability

Technology Verdict An excellent all-in-one networking solution that's

priced for small businesses. Competition: There are many stand-alone applications for communications, network collaboration, and group organization, but only Power Suite integrates these features into one package.

Minimum System Requirements: 386 CPU, 6MB of RAM, 40MB of hard-disk space, CD-ROM drive (required for installation).

Annlications Included: I ANtastic Lotus cc-Mail Lotus Organizer, Chevenne's BitWare and BitShare, and NetCom's > NetCruiser.

\$199 est, street price for singleuser pack, \$8,199 for 100 users (800) 233-5564, (602) 670-7100 Reader Service No. 684

via cc:Mail and Organizer. With cc:Mail you can send and receive messages with attachments to anyone on the LANtastic network, and if you're not in the building, you can dial in using cc:Mail Remote (included with cc:Mail). In addition, the Lotus and

Chevenne applications are smartly integrated with one another. For example, if you're using cc:Mail and want to fax your message instead of e-mail it, a simple one-button selection connects you to BitWare and sends your fax.

BitWare is a complete communications package that can be used to fax, download files, or connect to online services: BitShare lets users share up to four modems over the network. This means that instead of buying modems for everyone, you just hang a few off a networked PC. Then any system on the LAN can run standard Windows or DOS communications software as if it were connected

Net Gain The beta version of Power Suite we evaluated did not yet include Internet access through NetCruiser. But NetCruiser is an outstanding I-Way suite (see "One-Stop Net Shopping," November

to a local modem.

1994, page 121), and it's safe to say that it will live up to the high standards and level of integration set by the other applications that make up Power Suite.

If you've avoided installing a network because of cost and complication or a lack of useful integrated group tools, consider LANtastic Power Suite. The biggest surprise in Artisoft's new all-in-one network solution is the price. At a single-user cost of just \$199, you get something that doesn't come along often: a tightly integrated best-of-breed networking suite at a bargain ADAM MEYERSON price.

* Unacceptable

MODEM TEST RESULTS

How does U.S. Robotics' Sportster stack up against other leading V34 28.8 modems?



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SNEAK PREVIEW

there's an e offices to get to-peer LA1 of simple-tu use small-br is Artisoft's do you kee LANtastic tions such sharing, gro faxing, and I answer is A Power Suite

In our ed of Power \$ combination Lotus cc:Mai Cheyenne's Share, and Cruiser. No successfully of-breed bur pany has prishelves: A sit for just \$199

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In the pas using inexpe LANs was Power Suite shortcoming e-mail and so

Guide to th

MODEM TEST RESULTS

OFF THE SHELF, OUT OF TWO INDEPENDENT LABS PUT

THE THREE CRITICAL TEST PARAMETERS

COMPATIBILITY

ARE ALL V.34 28.8 MODEMS CREATED EQUAL?

That was the question tackled by two independent testing labs — TeleQuality Associates of Golden, Colorado, and Henderson Communications. Inc. of Moreno Valley. California.

While each testing facility used a different methodoly and tested different units, both set out to rate the performance of the popular, best-selling external V.34 moderns. Compatibility, connect rates, and how often maximum speeds were reached and maintained, were documented. The labs analyzed how effectively each manufacturer engineered its V34 moderns, and how well each one realized the potential of this new technology under real-world conditions.

All units were comparably equipped and the latest version available. To eliminate any bias that might occur when testing between like modems, i.e. Sportster to Sportster, all tests by both labs employed a full compatibility test matrix: every modem was tested with every modem. In order to do well, each modem would have to successfully handle the quirks of all the others in both answer and originate modes.

First, an overview of TeleQuality's procedures: The connect success rate tests were made with low, medium and high signal levels and incrementally varied noise from low to high. These tests were repeated over both a good fila attenuation and a bad (high rolloff 9002) phone line. All modems were pushed to their functional limits with 15 call cycles performed at each signal-to-noise (SNR) point. The percentage of successful connections for each SNR point was measured and graphed for all combinations of modems.

The performance tests were completed with the same types of phone lines, under the same SNR conditions using a highly compressible file transferred in both directions simultaneously. Again, the speed of the error-free data transfer was measured and graphed for all phone line and SNR points on all combinations of modems.

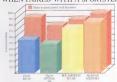
What follows on these two pages is a closer look at the results of the TeleQuality testing. On the back page are highlights of the Henderson test results. In both tests the bottom line says the same thing: buy a Sportster.

SPORTSTER OUTPERFORMS THE PACK IN COMPATIBILITY.

In order for modems to interact successfully, and at maximum speeds, each must be capable of assessing and compensating for differences between itself and its counterpart. The ideal modem is sensitive, tolerant and reactive. It identifies connection characteristics and makes the necessary adjustments in order to wring out maximum throughput — regardless of the operational idio-syncrasies of the modem on the other end of the line.

Given the common configuration of two same-brand modems, the ultimate compatibility would be expected when modem "A" is dialed into another modem "A". This study found that was not necessarily the case. In fact, some modems performed better when paired with a more robust competitive modem than when raired with themselves.

PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT WHEN PAIRED WITH A SPORTSTER



Connection rate improvement of modems paired with a Sportster compared to modems paired with themselves.

The study revealed that some modems had difficulty connecting to others at optimum speeds. In fact, certain modems showed substandard performance even when connected to themselves.

U. S. Robotics' Sportster displayed the most consistent compatibility with all other modems in the test. Interestingly, other modems in the study performed better when connected with the Sportster than when connected to themselves.

THE BOX, AND ON-LINE THE TOP BRANDS TO THE TEST.

CONNECTIVITY

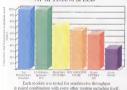
THROUGHPUT

SPORTSTER SUPERIOR IN CONNECTING AT OPTIMUM SPEEDS.

Because connection success rates can be enhanced at the expense of speed, the lab defined and measured connectivity as a function of connection success and error-free throughput. This measure yields a performance profile more indicative of true user satisfaction—where connecting at optimum speeds with other moderns is preferable to connecting at slower data rates.

Connection success rates and throughput scores were combined and normalized to establish a top performance standard (100) in order to show the relative connectivity scores of each modem.

COMPATIBILITY WITH OTHER MODEMS AT OPTIMUM SPEED

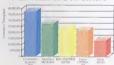


These results showed a great variability in the connectivity of the modems studied. The U. S. Robotics Sportster outperformed all other modems in the stop by demonstrating its ability to consistently connect at optimum speeds. Differences were quite dramatic with scores for other modems in the study falling from 18% to 64% below that of the Sportster.

SPORTSTER SETS STANDARDS IN THROUGHPUT.

a Throughput refers to the maximum amount of data a given modem can transmit over the widest variety of line conditions. Given perfect circumstances, any modem can reach its top speeds and maximum throughput. But end-users do not have the luxury of controlling conditions. Many variables can effect line quality, from geography to simple random channel assignment upon dial-in. Whatever hurdles may be present to impair maximum throughput, better modems sense them and initiate countermeasures to insure peak performance over the widest variety of line conditions.

CUMULATIVE THROUGHPUT OVER VARIED LINE CONDITIONS



Each modern was tested for send/receive throughput in paired combination with every other modern including itself.

The study found that some modems performed significantly better than others in this regard. The top performing modems effectively dealt with connection variables and line noise levels to deliver higher maximum throughput. In this test, U. S. Robotic's 'sportster delivered the most data over the widest variety of line conditions— up to 177% better than other modems.

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PREVIEW

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In our ea of Power St combination Lotus cc:Mai Cheyenne's Share, and Cruiser. No successfully of-breed bu pany has pri shelves: A sit for just \$199

Easy Si applications come on a and share a routine. Ewition decision with this diswhere to put office or whouse the si explained in network wa with full e-ming, and mc sharing in les

In the past using inexpe LANs was a Power Suite shortcoming e-mail and so

THE FIRST TEST WAS NO FLUKE!

Henderson Communications Laboratories also conducted tests with the leading modems on the market to measure each one's

market to measure each one's ability to connect and transmit data without error.

€€ In this study, connect rate performance was measured while attempting 119 connections over a range of test loop combinations as established in the Telecommunications Industry Association TSB-38 and TSB-37 A Table 2 standard. A success was recorded each time a connection was

established and a short message was transmitted error-free. The results clearly indicate U. S. Robotics'

Sportster's superiority with a 100% connection rate
— outperforming the other modems in the study by
as much as 36%.

s much as 36%.

CONNECT SUCCESS RATE

Another performance measure was throughput. In this phase, each modem's ability to perform in typical

asynchronous applications was rated based on its ability to transmit data over a variety of telephone network conditions. A TAS 1200 simulator was used on a select group of test channels, as outlined in TSB-37A Tables 3 through 6, to represent 95% of all possible telephone line types.

The research confirms the performance leadership of U. S. Robotics' Sportster V.34. Combining its 16% cumulative

throughput advantage over the next best modem with a connect success rate up to 41% better than others tested, Sportster clearly provides superior overall performance.

The U.S. Robotics Sportster proved that across all

Henderson Communications Laboratories

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

66 The V.34 standard offers tremendous promise for enabling new and more powerful applications. However, the V.34 standard carries with it challenging technological demands for modern manufacturers. How well each manufacturer addresses these chal-

end-user's experience with V.34.
Based on data obtained in this study, it's clear that some modern makers have embraced and managed the complexities of V.34 technology significantly better than others.

lenges will ultimately shape the

modems studied, it consistently delivered on the promises of V34 — increased compatibility, connect rate and throughput.

Sportster clearly demonstrated its

Sportster clearly demonstrated its superiority. It is intuitively designed, robustly engineered and flawlessly manufactured. 39

TeleQuality Associates



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPORTSTER V.34 AND THESE INDEPENDENT RESEARCH FINDINGS, PLEASE CALL I-800-DIAL-USR













*Complete test reports available on request

shows, the USBabasos logo and Spottster are negotiered trader Subsists: True V34 is a trademark of U.S. Roberts: All other boot names are trademarks of the

My Educated Mouse

Sorry, Michael Eisner, Mickey is no longer my favorite mouse. And I'd wager that if the CEO of Disney spent a week with Kensington's Thinking Mouse, he'd switch allegiances, too. The Thinking Mouse is comfortable, has a contemporary design, and—if you train it correctly—has smarts.

I've enjoyed the Thinking Mouse's four programmable buttons for about nine months. Case in point When I work in Microsoft Word 6.0 (every blessed day), a click on the right-front button gives me an instant word count of the highlighted text.

When I want to send a fax through my Hewlett-Packard OfficeJet LX, a click on the left-rear button automatically faxes whatever documents are queued up in Eclipse's Fax SE. And for all of the Web surfing I do—where mouse clicking is a necessity—I've assigned the Thinking Mouse to lead the way with a double-click to the right-rear button: Volid I've Navigator brings up http://www.pccomputine_ziff.com/-pccomp.

The Thinking Mouse has no-nonsense control software for customizing cursor acceleration, click speed, and other settings (even seven levels of annoying mouse trails). From there I can also quickly and easily set up enhanced button functions like the ones issut described.

The Thinking Mouse, with its appealing Easy Grip sides and cool texture, feels good in my hand, looks great on my desk, and is by far my favorite mouse. Anything else would be Goofy.

RICH SCHWERIN

Thinking Mouse / Kensington Microware / (800) 535-4242 / \$99 est, street price / Reader Service No. 686

Logbook Entries:

November 21, 1994: The Thinking Mouse arrives. I plug it in to my nine-pin serial port, load the software, and run through a tutorial called "Creating a Comfortable Work Space." No repetitive stress for me!

March 17, 1995: Personalized menus save time, so I've customized commands for my Windows applications. In Word 6.0, for example, one click brings up a word count in seconds.

June 26, 1995. Even mice need baths.
After seven months, it's time to
remove the lint and dust from
the ball cage (Q-Tips work just
fine), and clean the ball with
warm, soapy water. Smooth
salline once again.

Logbook Entries:

July 6, 1994: The first few installation attempts yield errors, and Windows NT doesn't boot. I call Microsoft and discover that the automatic detection of my token ring card is causing the problem. I manually select the network card and log on in seconds.

January 17, 1995: I try out the built-in remote access with a pair of Hayes V.34 modems. After installing the bost on my office system, I go home to set up the client. It's easy.

February 22, 1995: I receive the 32-bit versions of Word and Excel. They install easily, run fine, and look like regular Windows versions.

June 16, 1995: Windows 95 is right around the corner, but I'm not holding my breath.



Make Mine Windows NT

Just when I hit a wall with Windows 3.1, Microsoft released Windows NI' Workstation 3.5. I made the switch, and now there's no going back. Running Windows 3.1 on my 90MHz Pentium with 32MB of RAM was like driving a Ferrari in Mantan—you're better off walking. With Windows NT the lockups are gone, and I'm taking advantage of all that memory. It's not unusual for me to have Word-Perfect, Lotus Notes, Microsoft Excel, and Nessape Navigator all open at once. When I tried that with Windows 3.1, I spern half up the property of the word of the wor

or praying for some divine intervention.

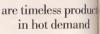
So now I have an operating system that does what it's supposed to doe run programs without hanging. And the bulli-in TCP/IP stacks make it the perfect launch pad for Intermet access (something you'll also find in Windows 95). Instead of loaing a third-party package, I just enter my IP address in Windows NT and I'm surfrag. Since it also offers multithreading, I don't have to count ceiling tiles during big downloads. Now it's not even a challenge to check e-mail or print while a few megabytes come in over the TI line.

Of course, there are sacrifices. For example, not all Windows 3.1 software works with Windows NT. But all of the 32-bit Windows 95 titles due out this fall will. And hardware installation couldn't be easier, Windows NT detected my SCS, sound, and video cards, and automatically installed the drivers. The only thing that it's missing is the slicker Windows MEM metrace.

ADAM METERSON

Windows NT Workstation 3.5 / Microsoft / (800) 426-9400 / 5289 est. street price for single workstation, 5699 for server license, plus \$29.95 per client / Reader Service No. 687 Behind Don Cover's success in bringing Central Supply into the computer age







and a founder who never said no to progress.





He also found a computer that could run the whole business without adding a single technician.

It's called AS/400 Advanced Series.

Like a lot of family-owned companies, tradition runs strong at Clarksburg, West Virginia's Central Supply;

So when the idea of a new business computer came up to handle the building supplier's growing sales, accounting and manufacturing, a bunch of other questions popped up, too.

Would the new computer be easy to use? Would it be affordable? Would it need lots of people to run it? The answer came after a few phone calls to other local businesses.

Their recommendation: a business computer called AS/400 Advanced Series. It could run the entire company. It came preloaded with the software Central Supply needed. And it was so easy to operate, no extra computer people had to be hired.

If that sounds like the kind of computing your business could use, call 1 800 IBM-3333, ext. BA136. Or, if on the Internet, stop by our Home Page at http://as400.rochesteribm.com

IBM.

Solutions for a small planet™

COVER STORY

Windows 95: The Ultimate

SYNOPSIS

WORKING WITH APPS:

Novices were most

productive under Windows 3.11. 118

MANAGING FILES:

Say what you will about File Manager, novices preferred it over Windows 95's Explorer. 119

SYSTEM MANAGEMENT:

When it came to system-management tasks, Windows 95 was the favorite. 120

NETWORKING AND HARDWARE: Does

Plug and Play deliver? 121

USABILITY OUTLOOK: The Mac, Internet access, and other issues. 122

FINAL ANALYSIS: Is it time to switch? 126 f you listen to IBM and Microsoft, it's time to jettison the aging Windows 3.1 interface in favor of a new 32-bit operating system. But do Windows 95 and OS/2 Warp 3 really have a dramatic usability edge over the version of Windows you've spent three years learning? Sure, they're prettier. But that doesn't mean they'll make

you more productive. And don't forget the price, which extends far beyond the dollars you'll pay for disks and a manual. At a minimum, making the switch means unlearning the work habits you don't even think about as you open and edit files each day. It means upgrading all of your applications. And if you're responsible for introducing a new operating system into your workgroup, you can multiply the price tag—and the hassle—by several orders of magnitude.

Before you go down that road, you'd better be convinced there's a return. A bunch of slick new features won't cut i:—there has to be a profound productivity gain. Which operating system has the edge? There's only one place to tell for sure. PC Computing's Usability Labs. Our battery of tests—measuring users' productivity and satisfaction with each operating system, as well as the helpfulness of each help system—covered the core activities you're likely to tackle no matter which operating system you adopt. We used the shipping versions of Windows for Workgrougs of We used the shipping versions of Windows for Workgrougs has the shipping versions of Windows for Workgrougs or when the shipping versions of Windows for Workgrougs or when the shipping versions of Windows for Workgrougs has the shipping versions of Windows for Workgrougs has the shipping versions of Windows for Workgrougs has the shipping versions of Windows the shipping versions of which we shipping versions of Windows the shipping versions of which we will shipping versions of which

we used the singping versions of windows for workgroups 3.11 and OS/2 Warp version 3. For the Windows 95 tests we installed the so-called final beta version released in March 1995. We started with one assumption: All users are not created equal.

The features you find indispensable in an operating system may leave the novices in your department hopelessly confused. So we created two test groups expert users, and novice users who had at best a nodding familiarity with the basics of PC operating systems. We found that hopes are not seen to be supported by the seen of the state of the period of the state of the seen of the state of the s

We found that because most apps are written for Windows 3.1, even novice users are familiar with it—even if it's not elegant. That puts extra pressure on all three operating systems. Which one proved the overall usability champ? Read on—the results will surprise you. NEW FACE: Windows 95 goes about things in a whole new way. Despite a sometimes confounding interface, its usability is ultimately higher than

that of Version 3 x

BOTH WAYS: OS/2 Warp 3 has an admirably elegant interface, but testers instinctively ran to Warp's Windows File and Program Managers.

old FAITHFUL:
It isn't pretty, but it
works. Surprisingly,
novice users were most
productive when using
Windows for Workgroups
3.11, although overall
satisfaction with this
system was low.

BY ED BOTT AND MARTY JEROME



Factor 1: Working with Applications

Quick, list every item in your wallet—no peeking. It's nearly impossible, isn't it? Yet when you need to produce an old lunch receipt or an Internet address that you scribbled on the back of a

deposit slip, you instinctively know whether or not it's there.

It's a strange kind of knowledge based on previous experience. In PC Computing's Usability Labs, we discovered that this sort of familiarity comes in handy when installing an application, combining data from different files, switching between programs, and otherwise working with applications.



A Familiar Face: Believe it or not, novices were most productive using Windows for Workgroups 3.11. Credit the underpowered—and therefore less confusing—Windows 3.1 Program Manager. Experts, however, were able to get any iob done—reardless of the operating system.

Novice users, for whom the very idea of an operating system was alien and who had little experience tooling around one, puzzled and groped, often throwing up their hands in exasperation, regardless of the operating system—hence the low ratings for all three systems. Novices were most productive, though dissuitsfed overall, in Windows for Workgroups 3.11.

This may seem surprising until you remember that Windows for Workgroups' Program Manager absolutely insists on staring you in the face when you install a program. To experienced users, this can be a nuisance. To novices, it limits the number of dead ends they must hit before finding success.

Experienced users, on the other hand, know what's not included—and what should be. Our expert test plugged quickly and comfortably into both Windows 95 and OS/2 Warp. The missing pieces in Windows J. were suddenly in place. Old gripes were appeased. It was almost as if testers were familiar with these systems before their fingers touched the keyboards.

Among this group, Windows 95 and OS/2 Warp drew roughly the same high scores. Does this mean



Help for Help: Novices struggled with and were defeated by OS/2 Warp's confusing Help facility.



Hidden Hand: Once novice users discovered Windows 95's Wizards, their productivity soared.

Lab Notes

Testers were asked to install an application, fire it up, then work in it. They also had to combine files and switch between open applications.

What Testers Said About Applications

"Installing a program [under Windows for Workgroups] was very easy, even though the operating system seems a little underdeveloped."

STUDENT
"I didn't like [Windows 95's]
big icons; I couldn't see

enough onscreen at once.
I didn't like seeing only one
drive at a time in a window."
LAN ADMINISTRATOR
"0S/2 Warp was slow to
load simple files."

SOFTWARE

you'll migrate from Windows 3.1 to either operating system with no learning curve? Of course not. But it does mean that moving to either operating system will undoubtedly offer enough rewards to make the learning process well worth it.

Unfortunately, our results also show that companies teeming with novice users won't see their training budgets shrink anytime soon.

and a	OS/2 Warp 3	Windows 95	Windows for Workgroups 3.
Experts	*** As with Windows 95, expert users found OS/2 Warp familiar territory.	**** It's not graceful, but user productivity was high.	**** Experts were able to complete all tasks.
Novices	* Help? Navices found little to guide them.	*½ Testers were quickly frustrated with even the simplest tasks.	*'s Novices were most productive here, but overall satisfaction was low.

*****Excellent **** Good *** Acceptable ** Poor * Unacceptable

Factor 2: Managing Files

The sweet spot of any operating system lies in moving, copying, deleting, and launching files. These tasks more directly affect your productivity than any other feature an operating system can offer. *PC Computing*'s Usability Labs found that simplicity in a file manager

boosts productivity more than a long list of sophisticated features does. OS/2 Warp and Windows 95 took some knocks—from novice and expert users alike—in our lab tests. Both groups preferred the rudimentary but easy-to-navigate File Manager in Windows for Workgroups 3.10



Twice a Winner: Most users have learned to work around the foibles of Windows' File Manager, so it wasn't surprising that testers preferred Windows for Workgroups 3.11 to OS/2 Warp and Windows 95, which have complex file managers.

Can this be explained simply by testers' familiarity with the older operating system? Perhaps. Confusion certainly accounted for some of the low marks given to the newer systems.

Novice users were dumbfounded by the clutter of Windows 95. They couldn't distinguish between the My Computer and Windows Explorer functions, and many of the menu choices under each were nuclear. Find your file ais folders deep beneath the My Computer icon? No, thank you, said novices. OS/2 Wary's folder and object scheme was equally forbidding. Users headed straight for the Windows-OS/2 Wary File Manager.

Advanced users certainly zoomed around the familiar Windows for Workgroups Fill Manager with speed and efficiency. They bemeaned Windows 95's lack of eascading windows, a feature that makes it easy to arrange two directories side by side for easy moving and copying of files. They also looked in vain for a Copy command under the File menuanother case of Windows 95 confounding experienced users with the new terminology it uses for

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File It Your Way: Testers preferred the Windows-OS/2 File Manager to OS/2's object approach.

Esploring Win35 (L.)	
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⊞	Progra
⊞ → Win95 (C:)	Sesi
Eollwin	Windo
Program Files	Autoex
Scti	@ Autoes
,	Autoex

Confusing Clutter: Are files managed by Windows 95's Explorer or My Computer?

Lab Notes File management tests covered the

File management tests covered the basics, including copying, deleting, and moving files.

What Testers Said About File Management

"I wish files [in Windows 95] listed vertically instead of horizontally. But I really liked the file-search feature."

the file-search feature."

LAN ADMINISTRATOR

"While it takes too many
keystrokes to copy [or] delete

files in OS/2 Warp, searching for files was fast." SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER

"Copying and deleting multiple files (in Windows for Workgroups) could be made simpler—too many keystrokes."

INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGER

familiar tasks. Grousing aside, expert users quickly became adept and productive using the file managers in all three operating systems.

All of our test results reflect the need to improve usability in the three operating systems. Over time we will, no doubt, appreciate the more sophisticated file-management features of Windows 95 and OS/2 Warp. But first we have to unlearn old habits.

SUMMARY					
The state of the s	OS/2 Werp 3	Windows 95	Windows for Workgroups 3.11		
Experts	*** Seven expert users tripped over some tasks.	****This was unfamiliar territory at first, but easy enough to learn quickly.	**** Expert users sped through tasks with ease.		
Novices	** The folder and object metaphor is daunting indeed.	** Sure, it's powerful, but the clutter proved confounding.	**½ It's far from perfect, but novices declared it the easiest.		
	The same	S. Charles			

*****Excellent **** Good *** Acceptable ** Poor * Unacceptable

Factor 3: System Management

No one likes to baby-sit a box of circuit boards. But as application and data files grow in capabilities (and in their influence on our paychecks), our systems will require more—not less—custodial overseeing. There's good news on this front: Windows 95 and OS/2 Warp both provide no-hassle

system-management tools. They're better than those found in Windows for Workgroups.

Actually, Windows 95 is the winner on this score for both novices and experienced users. Whether you're attempting easy chores (such as



High Five to Windows 95: Novices and experienced users agree that system-management features under Windows 95 are both easier to use and more capable than the same features in OS/2 Warp and Windows for Workgroups. Productivity scores were higher under Windows 95.

assigning a password to your system or formatting a floppy disk) or more complex tasks (like searching for a file by text string or running an antivirus program from a DOS prompt), Windows 95 simplifies the process. It minimizes the time you spend keeping your system happy and secure.

Even novices put Windows 95 file-search command to work immediately, thanks to its prominent location on the Start menu. The final version of Windows 95 might score even better on astisfaction—the beta release our resters used was missing the interface for formatting a floppy, which forced them to open a DCS windows to perform this key task. Still, novices liked Windows 95 and OS/2 Warp about equally well, although they were more productive under Windows 95.

The opposite was true for experienced users, who were equally productive under Windows 95 and OS/2 Warp, but preferred the former for its better help facility and handly file-search utility that lets you search by extension or text string. OS/2 Warp has two file-search utilities, but the easy-to-find one on the Launchpad handles filename searches only. Still,



Fast Launch: OS/2 Warp's file-search utility is prominent on the Launchpad but searches only by name.

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Applications T		Fast OK
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Lost in Space: Few testers figured out how to add a password under Windows for Workgroups 3.11.

Lab Notes

Novices were asked to search for files, format a disk, and assign a password to their desktops. Experts also searched for a file, and had to run a virus program from DOS.

What Testers Said About System Management

"One of the great qualities [of Windows 95] is onscreen help with an index."

MANAGER "[0S/2 Warp] was not very intuitive—it didn't meet

my expectations."
COMPANY PRESIDENT
"After you've been exposed
to Windows 95, Windows for
Workgroups seems very

CONTRACTOR

experts' productivity under both operating systems was better than under Windows for Workgroups 3.11.

Despite similar overall ratings across the three systems, our test suggested that Windows 3.1 is ready for retirement. Testers had an awful time assigning a password to their systems, for example, with the command buried under the screen-saver option. And Windows 3.11 offers almost no help for system management.



*****Excellent **** Good *** Acceptable **Poor * Unacceptable

Factor 4: Networking and Hardware

While humble consideration is due to the PC novices in your organization, let us not neglect numero uno. Usability is as important to those of us who are comfortable installing a sound card or changing video drivers as it is to technical novices. So how does Windows 95 stack

up against OS/2 Warp 3 and Windows for Workgroups 3.11? Perhaps it's not a fair question; OS/2 Warp doesn't do networking—yet. (OS/2 Warp Connect should have shipped by the time you read this.) And Windows 95—unlike other operatine systems—



Click, Click, You're Done: Windows 95's Display applet nices or complements Plug and Play for changing video resolutions. Virtually every hardware-related task was vastly easier under Windows 95, thanks to Plug and Play and a collection of bundled drivers for more than 1,000 devices.

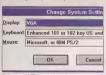
features Plug and Play, which was designed with usability as its heart and soul. Without Microsoft's ceumenical backing of the standard, it's unlikely that hundreds (make that thousands) of hardware makers would have lined up behind it. And line up they have. Unsurprisingly, Windows 95 swent our hardware usability tests.

OS/2 Warp is no ignoramus on this score, however, trendly recognized and installed the sound card we used. Curiously, many of the testers went sheed and installed the sound-card software under OS/2 Warp, even though it was unnecessary. Under Windows 95, you merely stick the card into an expansion slot, then restart Windows. The operating system recognizes that you've installed a new card, then offers you the option of using Windows 95s driver or your own.

Changing video resolutions is even easier, thanks to Windows 95's easy-to-use Display applet. Not so with OS/2 Warp. Of its default resolutions, 1,024 by 768 pixels isn't even listed; you have to do a selective install to upgrade the video driver. To its credit, you can change resolutions easily under the Screen command—once the upgrade is in place.



Upgrade Enigma: Changing resolutions in OS/2 Warp is a dreadfully complicated process.



Tried and True: In hardware usability tests, users were productive under Windows for Workgroups.

Lab Notes

Novice users sat out these tests, as we asked expert users to change the video resolution and install a sound card.

What Testers Said About Hardware Upgrades

"[Windows 95's] Plug and Play was very nice. Once you learn a few fine points, it's

an easy system to use."
SENIOR SOFTWARE
ENGINEER

"I was impressed with the sound-card setup. But I'm not sure why I'd use (OS/2 Warp] if I were only running Windows on top of it."

LAN ADMINISTRATOR

"It's not readily apparent
how to perform basic
procedures (in Windows for

Workgroups]."
SYSTEMS

ADMINISTRATOR

Nevertheless, the upgrade process is an obvious kludge in the operating system, which dragged down its owerall score. Even Windows for Workgroups scored higher in productivity and tester satisfaction than OS/2 Warp, although neither could touc Windows 95 in either category. For expert users, the writing is on the wall: Windows 95 will make you more productive sooner than any of its competitors.



*****Excellent ****Good *** Acceptable **Poor * Unacceptable

Usability Outlook

Somewhere between DOS's scrubby C: prompt and Window 95's slick Dial-Up Networking Wizard, operating systems got class. Credit the Macintosh if you like, but today's operating systems look better and act more consistently. They also perform scores of services that were once relegated to independent applications. Have these add-on services made computers more usable, or merely more complex? Good question,



The One to Beat: The Mac is still a paragon of usability.

Can the Macintosh do it better?

The Mac has certainly done it longer. Remember that built-in networking, plug-and-play peripherals, and the graphical interface were all standard fare in the Macintosh Operating System back when 386 PCs were considered state-of-the-art. For years now, the Macintosh has been the usability standard against which x86 PCs have been judged and found wanting.

On the other hand, migration costs are steep, and not just for hardware.

entipare Services Servician Help (B) (C) (C) (C) (C)

IEM Web Map

Hang Five: More ways to

surf the Net with Warp's Internet Access Kit.

You'll need new applications, whereas most of your current 16-bit apps still run under Windows 95 and OS/2 Warp. And networking a mixed bag of PCs and Macs isn't always easy. Bottom line: The carefully controlled Macintosh environment is still the usability standard, but Windows 95 has narrowed the gap.

What about Internet access? Anyone who can install software can add TCP/IP support to the operating systems we tested. Windows 95 makes the

process easier than ever, but it still has some catching up to reach the all-in-one

ease of OS/2 Warp's bundled Internet Access Kit. The IBM solution includes a Usenet news reader, Gopher utility, World Wide Web browser, FTP filetransfer program, and Telnet terminal emulator. With OS/2 Warp Connect, IBM's networking version of the operating system, you can run these tools over the company network or by dialing up directly.

Still, don't expect Big Blue's lead to last long. Microsoft plans to offer the all-in-one Internet Jumpstart Kit, complete with an Internet Explorer based on the Mosaic Web browser, as part of a \$50 utility pack. And Microsoft Network will offer full Internet access, complete with an integrated Web browser, shortly after Windows 95 is released.



Bill's World: Like other online services. Microsoft Network offers gateways to the Internet.

Exchange mail client gives you one-stop access Microsoft Mail and faxes, as well as tight integration with

Internet and CompuServe. The system also includes MAPI drivers to support Lotus Notes, cc:Mail, and other packages. All Windows 95 applications are both mail- and fax-enabled. It's as simple a solution as you're going to find.

The picture is far more complicated for OS/2 Warp. A scaled-down version of Global Village

Communication's Works is integrated into OS/2 Warp, which lets you fax from any application, Email, on the other hand, requires third-party support, IBM's own Ultimedia Mail/2 is one of the few mail clients that takes advantage of the Workplace Shell. Curiously, IBM has decided to drop that package in the Connect version of OS/2 Warp; instead,

Private Folders From Deleted mail C Sent mail Mail Call: Windows 95's universal Inbox includes slots for mail, faxes, and files.

File Edit View Mail Wind

What should I

expect in the

way of e-mail

and faxing?

Windows 95

owns the show

in these areas. The Microsoft

OS/2 Warp users will get a bundled copy of Lotus Notes Express, which will be of little use to shops that haven't standardized on Notes.

Where does OLE stand? The rich get richer-that's the story for OLE under Windows 95. Thanks to improved resource and memory handling, OLE operations are faster than before, and simple data exchanges don't consume every last system resource. The most intriguing addition is the ubiquitous use of shortcutspointers to files on the same system or elsewhere on the

network, Shortcuts are OLE objects, so you can mail or embed a pointer to a file without copying the entire file. Macintosh aliases and OS/2 Warp shadows perform a similar function, but the Windows 95 variety gets a big boost from OLE.

Object Type Paint Shop Pro Image Paint Shop Pro Image Paintbrush Picture Presentations 3.0 Chart Presentations 3.0 Drawi Quattro Pro 6.0 Graph Close Links: OLE is easier to

use, speedier, and more capable under Windows 95.

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The **Most Usable** Operating System

Just as it's hard to toss out an old pair of blue jeans, it's hard to abandon the well-worn ways of your old operating system—even when it doesn't fit quite as comfortably as it used to.

This phenomenon partly explains why Windows 95 came out ahead in our early usability evaluation by only a small margin. Also, we tested only some of the key features of these operating systems, so none were eligible for our Usability Seal of Approval.

generation 32-bit operating systems, have IBM and Microsoft sacrificed usability? We don't think so. Expert testers scored consistently high in productivity—even when they gave mediocre scores for satisfaction—under both OS/2 Warp and Windows 95. And testers overwhelmingly reported that they found both of these operating systems easier to use as they became more familiar with them.

In shoehorning so many

features into these next-



New Windows Ways: All testers were initially confused by Windows 95's file-management tools. But experts quickly figured things out and learned to like Explorer. Novices struggled, but they also did so with Windows for Workgroups 3.11. ***5



Better Windows Than . . . ? Among novices, OS/2 Warp 3 would have ranked on a par with Windows 95 if Warp's help facility had been better. Experts didn't voice big complaints, but many questioned switching operating systems just to run 16-bit Windows apps. ** 5

SATISFACTION: You tend to

like what you knowor what you can figure out quickly. The latter explains why Windows 95 edged ahead of OS/2 Warp and Windows for Workgroups in general satisfaction.

PRODUCTIVITY: A simpler

file manager would belp OS/2 Warp and Windows 95. Both novice and expert users preferred the uncomplicated design of Windows for Workgroups. HELP SYSTEM: Novices were often baffled by OS/2 Warp's help, in which technical terminology is taken for granted. Productivity scores would have been

bigher with better

online assistance.

SUMMARY: It isn't the fountain of usability, but Windows 95 packs tremendous capabilities into an operating system. Although it's not the easiest to learn, it pays off bandsomely.

Lab Notes: What Testers Said About Operating Systems

Windows 95



"Microsoft has tried to take from the user the burden of installing components. From what I can tell, it has succeeded. The things I found confusing at first were clear after working with the product for a short time " SOFTWARE ENGINEED

OS/2 Warn 3



"OS/2 Warn has solid multitasking for DOS, Windows, and OS/2. The more I explored it. the more surprises I found. I especially like the variety of options it offers in the way of file management. I was extremely impressed " PROGRAMMER

Windows 3.11



The Shift-click and Ctrl-click shortcuts are great, even though they're not well known. I take these little hidden tricks and techniques for granted-I should put more emphasis on them when I teach others. The same is true with the networking features." LAN ADMINISTRATOR

The Script We gave testers 16 tasks systems. The first 10 tasks were the same for both novice and expert user grouns and consisted of three sets of tasks including installing, starting, and switching between annlications-file management; and formatting a flongy disk After completing the first 10 tasks, the expert users performed an additional 6 tasks that included changing configuration settings

and installing hardware.

How We Tested

We brought two types of computer users into our

Usability Labs: novice users, who had used

computers several times

but were not familiar with

tasks such as copying

and pasting text, or

changing operating

system settings; and expert users (half OS/2

users and half Windows

3.11 users), all of whom

were familiar with tasks

like searching for data

and creating start-up

macros. Each testing group was given the same assignments-10 tasks

for the novices and 16

tasks for the power users.

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0S/2 Warn 3 / \$89 est. street price / IBM / (800) 426-2968.

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Workgroups 3.11/

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Windows for

SCORECARD OVERALL USABILITY RATINGS* Task Windows 95 OS/2 Warp 3 **% Alt-Tab behaves

*** The basics were old 1. Working with hat to experts. Thumbs up Applications to the Add New Software Weighting: 25% Wizard-if you can find it. *** Start with My

strangely And do you install software under Windows or under OS/2 Warn? *** We'll take the

Windows-OS/2 File

stick with Windows?

Manager-if we have to.

Then again, why not just

*** Simplicity gives it an inconsequential edge over its 32-hit competitorsmore so for povices.

Windows for

Workgroups 3.11

*** Even experts prefer Windows for Workgroups for file management-because they already know it.

3. System Management Weighting: 31%

Weighting: 19%

2. Managing

Files

*** The best file-search utility you'll see. Adding passwords was a breeze, as was changing video resolutions.

Computer or Windows

Explorer? Once you're

get much easier.

over this hurdle, things

*** The file-search utility is not quite a match for the Windows 95 winner. but it is well-positioned on the Launchpad.

**% Bet you can't find the password function. It's buried, And there's no file-search utility, either,

4. Networking and Hardware

**** Network Neighborhood makes finding server resources simple, And Plug and Play is magic

** Networking must wait for OS/2 Warp Connect, and changing video resolutions is a headache. Adding hardware is a little easier.

* * ½ It's still a fine

**** Quick and easy networking-if it's peer to peer. Other hardware is not Plug and Play,

*** This is the

waiting area. But don't

expect to wait here long.

Weighting: 25%

* * * 1 Training isn't cheap, but it's a cost that's repaid in productivity.

Lridge to a 32-bit world. But usability suffers.

Verdict 100% *RATINGS ARE AN AVERAGE OF NOVICE AND EXPERT SCORES

***** Excellent **** Good

*** Acceptable

**Poor

* Unacceptable

PC COMPUTING

Is It Time to Switch?

If there's a Windows in your past, there's probably a Windows in your future. That's our preliminary conclusion after several months of poking and prodding these three operating systems in our Usability Labs.

Despite the fact that there were several key pieces missing from the Windows 95 interface in the beta version we tested, our expert users were able to get right to work with Windows 95. They grumbled about the unfamiliar interface, but gave the system nearly verfect productivity scores across the board.

IBM's OS/2 Warp 3 carned high scores with experts in two areas, but it was a nonstarter in the crucial networking section. After struggling in vain with a beta version of OS/2 Warp Connect, we had to give Big Blue an "incomplete" in this category. The other weak spot was hardware setup, where a needlessly complex video-driver installation attumped even OS/2 Warp veterand.

The most striking conclusion of our tests was the surprisingly strong showing of Windows for Workgroups 3.11. Among novice users in particular, we found a noteworthy correlation between familiarity and immediate productivity. That fact, coupled with the underpowered but uncomplicated Program Manager interface, gave Windows for Workgroups 3.11 a head start. We suspect that after only minimal retraining, novice users would be just as comfortable with Windows 95 or OS/2 Warp.

Microsoft claims that new users can hit their stride quickly with Windows 95, matching their productivity after as little as 20 minutes with the new interface. Our tests suggest that Microsoft's conclusion is optimistic. Even after a full day with Windows 95, nowices were still confused by simple tasks like managing files. There are usability winners throughout Windows 95, including an easy-to-follow Wizard for installing new applications, but our testers couldn't always find the help they needed when they needed it.

Overall, there's no question that Windows 95 is more usable than Windows for Workgroups 3.11 or OS/2 Warp. But it won't be eligible for our Usability Seal of Approval until Microsoft puts shrink wrap on the boxes and irons out a few kinks in the interface.

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1,001 Windows 95 Shortcuts

SYNOPSIS

WINDOWS 95: Tips for mastering the new operating system. **\$2**

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Power tools. **\$32**

here's always an easier and faster way to get things done in Windows. One of the simplest ways to boost your productivity is to take advantage of the keyboard shortcuts built in to the operating system—and every Windows application and utility. With the right key combinations at your fingertips, you'll never have to search for an elusive feature again.

Even if you're already a keyboard wizard, under Windows 95 you'll have to relearn some of your favorite moves. But it's worth teaching your old fingers some new tricks, to take advantage of a slew of new features. That's why we've assembled this exclusive and comprehensive collection of 1,001 keyboard shortcuts—it's a one-stop reference to guide you through the powerful new world of Windows 95.

BY MATTHEW LAKE, YAEL LI-RON, AND BENJAMIN F. MILLER



Windows 95 General Display Start menu Switch to last window used Cycle through open applications Alt Tab Alt Bypass CD or CD-ROM autoplay Select first item on menu bar Move through menu headings Close current menu selection Cancel current selection on menu bar Close current document window FA drag the file. C Create a shortcut Ctrl Shift drag the file drag an item, S Delete an item Drag to Recycle Bin Delete an item to Recycle Bin Delete an item with no undelete Delete an item with no undelete Delete an item with no undelete Shift) drag item to Recycle Bi Select first menu on menu bar Add Toolbar to any Windows applet or folder Move forward through dialog box options Move backward through dialog box options Move between tabs Move to an option with the letter X underlined Go to the top of a list box Go to the bottom of a list box Move to item in list box starting with X Select or deselect items in a check box or list box Select or deselect one item at a time in a list box Select or deselect one item at a time in a list box Make noncontiguous selections from list box Open Look In list (Open dialog) Open Save In list (Save as dialog) Open folder a level up from current folder Create a new folder Jump to a desktop item Type initial characters Rename an item Find a file or folder Cut selected item Copy selected item Paste copied or cut item View an item's Properties View an item's Properties

Create a shortcut	(*) drag the file, (S)
Close parent folders	(Shift) click on the Close button
Correct displayed time (on A	T, T, HA, Tab to adjust, Alt A
Line up icons	C.E
Turn on (or turn off) icons' au	toarrange C, DA
Minimize all windows	(*) on Taskbar, [M]
Cascade all windows	en Taskbar, ©
Tile all windows horizontally	🖰 on Taskbar, 🖽
Tile all windows vertically	🖰 on Taskbar, 💟
Undo last Desktop command	6.0
Change the Desktop's propert	
Change background pattern	on desktop, 🖪, select option, (Alt (A)
	esktop, FI, Alt W, select option, Alt A
Tile wallpaper	on desktop, R. Alt T. Alt A
Center wallpaper	on desktop, R. Alt C. Alt A
Change screen saver	on desktop, R. Ctri Tab , Alt S
Password-protect screen saver	on desktop, R, Ctrl Tab, Alt P
Change password	on desktop, R, Ciri Tab, Alt C
Change screen saver setup	on desktop, R), Ctrl Tab, Alt T
Preview screen saver	on desktop, R. Ctrl Tab. Alt V
Change screen saver wait time	on desktop, R. Ctrl Tab. Alt W
Taskbar	
Hide Taskbar	C.B.U
Restore hidden Taskbar	e B U
Remove clock from Trav	ĕāō
Cascade all windows	F on Taskbar,©
Tile all windows horizontally	€9 on Taskbar, ⊞
Tile all windows vertically	F¶ on Taskbar, [V]
Undo last Desktop command	6.0
Reduce size of icons in Start m	
	menu (on Taskbar, R), Ctri (Tab), C
	on Taskbar, R. Ctrl Tab, A. Alt B
Start Menu	
Activate Start menu	Ctrl Esc
Activate Start menu from Desl	
Activate Start menu from Desl	
	on Taskhar, R. Ctrl Tab A Att B
Remove items from Start menu	on Start button, O, P, Enter
EDITOR'S TIP WIN	NDOWS 95
Ed Bott: To run From	2
programs quickly,	Type the name of a program, folder, or document, and
use Ciri (Esc.) to	Windows will open it for you

Activate Start menu fro Activate Start menu fro Activate Start menu fro Add item to Start menu Remove items from Sta	m Desktop Alt S on Taskbar, FI Ctrl Tab A Alt B
EDITOR'S TIP	WINDOWS 95
Ed Bott: To run programs quickly,	Type the name of a program, folder, or document, and
use Cirl Esc to pop up the Start	Quen [10:25]
menu, then (1) to bring up the Run	OK Cancel Browse
box. You can type a computer name	h ! d ! h
folder is stored in the	th in this box to open a folder. If the ne Windows folder, you don't need ne To open the SendTo folder for

example, just type its name in the Run box.











Reduce size of icons in Start menu	(*) on Taskbar, (*), (\$)	Change icon size to large	Alt V. G
Clear contents of Documents menu Et		Change icon size to large	AV.G
oring up Find utility	Fin Start button, (F)	Change icon view to a list	Ăi V, L
and all a mer arms,		Change icon view to a list	700
Recycle Bin		Change icon view to a detailed list	Alt V, D
Empty Recycle Bin	C.B	Change icon view to a detailed list	7.0.0
Cancel delete confirmation dialog box	a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a	Arrange icons in alphabetical order	ARV.II.N
Reinstate delete confirmation dialog bo		Arrange icons in alphabetical order	- CON
Cancel undelete option for every deletion		Arrange icons by size	ANV.II.S
Californ discrete operation of the parties		Arrange icons by size	6,0,0
Explorer		Arrange icons by type	ANV.II.T
Open Explorer	🖱 on Start button, 🗉	Arrange icons by type	
Refresh a window	F5)	Arrange icons by modification date	
Go to a named folder	Ctrl G, enter name	Arrange icons by modification date	AMO
Jump to a folder	Type its initial character(s)	Line up icons	
Undo	Ctrl(Z)	Line up icons	#.D.C
Select all	Ctri (A)	Add Toolbar to any Windows applet or folder	ARV T
Move one level up	Backspace	Activate the Toolbar's List box	Tab
Close selected folder and its parents	Shift on Close button	Activate the Toolbar's List box	F4
Rename an item	F2	richitate the rootbar s hist box	
Find a file or folder	F3	Managing Folders	
Cut selected item	(Ctrl)(X)	Find a file or folder	F3
Copy selected item	CITIC	Cut selected item	(Ctrl X
Paste copied or cut item	Citi	Copy selected item	CtriC
Delete an item to Recycle Bin	(Del)	Paste copied or cut item	Ctrl V
Delete an item to Recycle Bin	C.D	Delete an item to Recycle Bin	Del
Delete an item with no undelete	Shift Del or Shift Del	Delete an item to Recycle Bin	6.0
View an item's Properties	Alt Enter	Undo delete	n desktop, U
	Alt C	Delete an item with no undelete	(Shift Del)
View an item's Properties	Cirl drag the file	View an item's Properties	(Alt Enter)
Copy a file Create a shortcut	Ctrl Shift drag the file	Copy a file	Ctrl drag the file
Switch between left and right panes	F 6		Shift drag the file
Switch between left and right panes	* on numeric keypad	Create a shortcut	urag die nie
Expand current folder's subfolders	+) on numeric keypad	Fonts Folder	
Expand the selected folder	on numeric keypad	Install a new font	Alt F I
Collapse the selected folder		Hide font variations (bold, italic, etc.)	Alt V, H
Expand current selection	9	List fonts by similarity	Alt V S
Select first subfolder (if expanded)	<u> </u>	List fonts by similarity	MILY C
Collapse current selection	⊕	Printers Folder	
Select parent folder (if collapsed)	AHV),M		Alt F. A
Change icon size to small		Pause print job on selected printer	6.A
Change icon size to small	O.V.M	Pause print job on selected printer	Alt)(F),(U)
		Purge print job on selected printer	
		Purge print job on selected printer	Alt E, E
EDITOR'S TIP NATURAL I	KEYBOARD	Set default printer	
		Set default printer	O.E.
Matthew Lake: If you're lucky			
enough to have a Microsoft	Programs >	Microsoft Office 95	
Natural Keyboard and you		INICIOSUIL UITICE 33	
want to be able to access	Documents >	Excel 95: General	
the all-important Windows	Els Settings >	Copy selected text	(Ctrl)(C)
95 Start Menu with the	3/0)	Paste selected text	(Ctrl V
swiftest movement,	Find >	Cut selected text	(Ctrl)(X
remember the Windows	-9-	Delete selected text	Del
	Help		Ctri -
key: . One touch and the		Delete selected text	Ctrl Z
Start Menu is yours.	Bun.	Undo the last action	
E1	3	Insert blank cells	Ctrl Shift +
51	Shut Down	Activate cell and formula bar	F2



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Carry than the actions	(Enter)	Go to the next pane	F6
Cancil an action	(Esc)	Go to the previous pane	F6 Shift
Repeat the last action	F4	Go to the next workbook	F6 Ctrl
Start a new line in the same cell	Ctrl Enter	Go to the previous workbook	F6 Ctrl Shift
Clear the formula bar	Backspace	Perform a spelling check	F7
Edit a cell note	Shift (F2)	Perform the Move command	F7 Ctrl
Paste a name into a formula	(F3)	Extend a selection	F8)
Display the Formula Wizard	(Ctrl)(A)	Shrink a selection	F8 Shift
Insert argument names	Ctrl Shift A	Perform the Size command	F8 Ctrl
Define a name	Ctrl F3	Calculate all sheets in all open workbooks	F9
Create names from cell text	Ctrl Shift F3	Calculate the active spreadsheet	F9 Shift
	F9	Minimize the workbook	F9 Ctrl
Calculate all sheets in all open workbooks		Activate the menu bar	F10
Calculate all sheets in all open workbooks	Ctrl		
Calculate the active sheet	Shift F 9	Display a shortcut menu	F10 Shift
Insert AutoSum formula	Alt	Maximize the document window	F10 Ctrl
Insert date	Ctrl ;	Create a chart	F11
Insert time	Ctrl :	Save file under another name, Save As	F12
Fill down	Ctrl D	Save file	F12 Shift
Fill right	Ctrl R	Open file	F12 Ctrl
Move down through a selection	Enter	Print file	F12 Ctrl Shift
Move up through a selection	Shift Enter		
Move right through a selection	Tab	Excel 95: Navigation Keys	
Move left through a selection	Shift Tab	Go one page to the left	Ctri (←)
Display the style dialog box	(Alt)	Go one page to the left	Shift Tab
Apply general number format	Ctrl Shift -	Go one page to the right	(Ctrl)→
Apply currency format	Ctrl Shift \$	Go one page to the right	Tab
Apply percentage format	Ctrl Shift %	Go to next sheet in workbook	Ctri Pg Up
Apply exponential number format	Ctrl Shift ^	Go to previous sheet in workbook	Ctrl (Pg Dn)
Apply date format with day:month:year	Ctrl Shift #	Go to the cell in the upper-left corner	Home
Apply time format with hour:minute	Ctrl Shift @	Go to previous field in the current record	
	Ctrl Shift 1	Go to previous field in the current record	ä
Apply two-decimal-place format	Ctrl Shift &	Go to the first record	Ulama
Apply outline border			(Fee)
Remove all borders	Ctrl Shift	Go to the last record	eno
Apply or remove bold	Ctrl B	Align data to the left	٧
Apply or remove italic	Ctrl 1	Align data to the right	Ü
Apply or remove underline	Ćtri U	Center data within a cell	Home End
Apply or remove strikethrough	Ctrl 5	Repeat characters across a cell	
Hide rows	Ctrl 9		
Unhide rows	Ctrl Shift (Excel 95: Databases	
Hide columns	Ctrl 0	Select a field At cha	racter underlined in name
Unhide columns	Ctrl Shift)		
Excel 95: Function Keys		EDITOR'S TIP WINDOWS 95	
Get online help	(FT)	EDITOR'S TIP WINDOWS 95	
Insert a new worksheet	F1 (Alt Shift)		
Activate a cell	F2	Dich Columnia Want to make from one o	roarom to
TICHYALC A CCII	(FE)	Rich Schwerin: Want to move from one p	rogram to

Get online help
Insert a new worksheet
Activate a cell
Edit a cell note
Display the info window
Paste a name into a formula
Display the Function Wizard
Define a name
Create names from cell text
Repeat last action
Repeat a Find or Go To action
Close an open window
Execute the Go To command
Execute the Find command
Execute the Find command
Execute the Find command
Restore the window size







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Goto same field in next record	₩
Go to same field in previous record	①
Go to next editable field	Tab
Go to previous editable field	Shift Tab
Go to first field in next record	Enter
Go to first field in previous record	Shift Enter
Go to same field ten records forward	Pg Dn
Go to same field ten records back	Pg Up
Go to a new record	Ctrl Pg Dn
Go to the first record	Ctrl Pg Up
Go to beginning of a field	Home
Go to end of a field	End
Go one character to the left in a field	€
Go one character to the right in a field	→
Extend the selection to the beginning of a field	Shift Home
Extend the selection to the end of a field	Shift End
Select a character to the left	Shift ←
Select a character to the right	Shift →
Display the list for the selected column label	Alt

EDITOR'S TIP

WINDOWS 95



Yael Li-Ron: Find it fast! Hit Carl F inside Explorer to bring up the Find utility. This is much faster than going through the Start menu.

Close the list for the selected column label Select the previous time on the list Select the next item on the list Select the first item on the list Select the list item on the list Filter the list using the selected item

Excel 95: Pivot Table Wizard

Detect the root of the next field button on the list
Detect the root of the previous field button on the list
Whove selected field into the gage area
Move selected field into the row area
Move selected field into the column area
Move selected field into the data area
Display the pivot table field dialog box

Table 10

And 12

And 13

And 14

And 15

Excel 95: Pivot Tables
Display the page field list
Close the page field list

Select the previous item on the list Select the next item on the list Select the next visible item on the list Select the last visible item on the list Display the selected item All +
All +
Home
End
Enter

Group selected pivot table items Ungroup selected pivot table items

Excel 95: Entering, Formatting Data

Complete a cell entry Start a new line in the same cell Insert a tab character in a cell Delete a character Delete text to the end of the line Move one character up Move one character down Move one character right Move one character left Move to the beginning of the line Fill the selected cell range with the current entry Complete a cell entry and move down one cell Complete a cell entry and move up one cell Start a formula Calculate all sheets in all open workbooks Insert a line break

Insert a blank cell
Copy value into active cell or formula bar
Toggle between cell values and cell formulas
Copy formula into active cell or formula bar
Enter a formula as an array formula
Display step two of the Function Wizard

Insert function argument name Activate the autocomplete list Execute the style command Execute the format cells command Extend selection by one cell right Extend selection by one cell left Extend selection by one cell up

Extend selection to end of current data region Extend selection to beginning of a row Extend selection to beginning of worksheet Extend selection to last cell in worksheet

Select an entire row Select an entire worksheet Collapse selection to the active cell Extend selection down one screen Extend selection up one screen Select the current region

Select an entire column

Select all objects on a sheet
Hide or display objects or object placeholders
Show or hide the standard toolbar
Turn end mode on or off

Word 95: General

Get online help Reveal formatting Go to next field Go to previous field Move text or graphics F1 Shift F1 Alt Shift F2



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Form

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	-	
Copy text	F2 (Shift)	Hide or display character formatting on numeric keypad
Print preview	F2 (Ctrl)	Show the first line of body text or all body text Alt Shift L
Save file	F2 Alt Shift	Show all headings with the heading 1 style Alt Shift 1
Insert autotext entry	F3	Show all headings up to heading N (Alt Shift) N
	F3 (Shift)	Show all headings up to heading.
Toggle capitalization of letters	(F3) Ctrl)	Word 95: Field Settings
Cut to the spike	F3 Ctrl Shift	Date field All Shift D
Insert contents of the spike	F4	
Repeat the last action		
Repeat a Find or Go To action	F 4 Shift	Time Field Ah Shift T
Close the window	F4 Ctrl	Wand OF Mail Marna
Exit Word 95	F4 Alt	Word 95: Mail Merge
Execute Go To command	F5	Preview a mail merge
Move to a previous revision	F5 Shift	Merge a document
Restore window size	F5 Ctrl	Print the merged document Alt Shift M
Edit a bookmark	F 5 Ctrl Shift	Edit a mail-merge data document Alt Shift E
Go to next pane	F6	Insert a merge field All Shift F
Go to previous pane	F6 Shift	
Go to next window	F6 Ctrl	Word 95: Editing and Moving Text
Go to previous window	F 6 Ctrl Shift	Copy text or graphics
Perform spelling check	F7	Copy formats Ctrl Shift C
Open thesaurus	F7 Shift	Paste text or graphics
Execute move command	F7 Ctrl	Paste formats Ctrl Shift V
Update linked information in source document	F7 (Ctrl Shift)	Delete character on the left Backspace
Find next misspelled word	F7 Alt	Delete word on the left (Ctr) (Backspace)
Extend selection	F8	Delete character on the right
Shrink selection	F8 (Shift)	Delete word on the right
Execute size command	(FB)(Ctrl)	Cut selected text to clipboard (Ctr)(X)
Extend selection or block	F8 (Ctrl Shift)	Undo the last action Ctri Z
Update selected fields	F9	Insert autotext entry Type autotext entry name and Alt Ctri V
Insert an empty field	F9 Ctrl	Insert line break Shift Enter
Toggle between field code and its result	F9 (Shift)	Insert page break Ctrl Enter
Toggle through all field codes and all results	(F9)(Alt)	Insert column break (Ctri) Shift Enter
Unlink a field	F9 (Ctrl) Shift	Insert optional hyphen
Run GOTOBUTTON or MACROBUTTON	F9 (Alt Shift)	Insert nonbreaking space Ctrl Shift Spacebar
Activate the menu bar	F10	Insert copyright symbol All Ciri C
	F10 (Shift)	Insert registered trademark symbol
Display a shortcut menu Maximize the document window	F10 Ctrl	
	(F10 (Ctrl) Shift	
Activate the ruler		
Maximize the application window	F10 Alt	Insert double opening quotation mark
Go to the next field	F11	
Go to the previous field	F11 Shift	Insert en dash CIT on numeric keypad
Lock a field	F11 Ctrl	
Unlock a field	F11 Ctrl Shift	
Save As	F12	EDITOR'S TIP WINDOWS 95
Save a file	F12 Shift	
Open a file	F12 Ctrl	Penjamin F Miller If you're feeting control and want
Print a file	F12 Ctrl Shift	Benjamin F. Miller: If you're feeling contrary and want
		to task-switch backward through your open
Word 95: Outline Mode		applications, Of First, All Files
Promote a paragraph	Alt Shift ←	try Aft Shift Tab.
Demote a paragraph	Alt Shift →	This is very Name & Location Date Hoodined Adversions
Demote to body text	Ctrl Shift N	handy if you
Move selected paragraphs up	Alt Shift 1	passed the app
Move selected paragraphs down	Alt Shift ↓	you wanted Look in New States New States
Expand text under a heading	Alt (Shift) (+)	while switching
Callana tout under a heading	(AU)(Chillip)	forward.

Alt Shift +
Alt Shift +
Alt Shift -

Alt Shift A

* on numeric keypad

Display all text

Move selected paragraphs down Expand text under a heading Collapse text under a heading Show all text or headings



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September 6 or 7, 1995

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Insert em dash All Ctrl on numeric keypad	Double-underline text [Ciri (Shift) [D]
Insert a field Ctr F9	Hide text (Ciri Shift H)
Mark a table of contents entry Alt Shift 0	Unhide text (Ctrl) Shift [H]
Extend selection one character to the right	Apply italic CITI
Extend selection one character to the left Shift C	Format letters as small capitals (Ciri Shift K
	Apply subscript Ciri
Extend selection to the end of a line Shift End	
Extend selection to the beginning of a line Shift Home	
Extend selection one line down	
Extend selection one line up	
Extend selection to the end of a paragraph Ctri Shiff +	
Extend selection to the beginning of a paragraph Ctri Shift +	
Extend selection one screen down	Add one line of space preceding text
Extend selection one screen up	Remove the space preceding text
Extend selection to the end of a document Ctrl Shiff End	Center a paragraph
Extend selection to beginning of document Ctri Shift Home	Justify a paragraph
Extend selection to include the entire document (Ctrl) A	Left-align a paragraph Ctri L
Extend selection to a vertical block of text Ctrl Shift F8	Right-align a paragraph
Extend selection to a specific location F8 + 1 or 1	Indent a paragraph from the left CITIM
Select a column	Remove a paragraph indent from the left (Ct/ Shift M)
Select an entire table Ctrl 5 on numeric keypad	Create a hanging indent
Cut to the spike Ctrl F3	Reduce a hanging indent Ctri Shift T
Go one character to the left	Apply a style (formatting toolbar displayed) Ctri Shift R
Go one character to the right	Execute format command (Ctrl Shift S)
Go one word to the left	Start autoformat CITI K
Go one word to the right	Apply normal style Ctri Shift N
Go one paragraph up	Apply list style Ctri Shift L
Go one paragraph down	Create symbol font Ctri Shift Q
Go to the previous frame or object	Apply the Heading 1 style An Ctri 1
Go to the next frame or object Alt)	Apply the Heading 2 style
Go one column to the left (table) Shift Tab	Apply the Heading 3 style Alt Ctrl 3
Go one column to the right (table) Shift (Tab)	
Go to the next misspelling Shift Backspace	PowerPoint 95: General
Go up one line	Delete character on the left Backspace
Go down one line	Delete word on the left Ctrl Backspace
Go to the end of a line End	Delete character on the right
Go to the beginning of a line [Home]	Delete word on the right (Ctr) (Del
Go up one page Alt CIII 1	Cut Ctrl(X)
Go down one page	Cut (Shift Del)
Go up one screen Shift Pg Up	Copy
Go down one screen Shift Pg Dn	
Go to the bottom of the screen	
Go to the top of the screen	EDITOR'S TIP WINDOWS 95
Go to the end of a document Ctrl End	EDITOR'S TIP WINDOWS 75
Go to the beginning of a document Ctrl Home	
Go to the beginning of a document	Daniel Carwin: Want an
Word 95: Formatting Text	easy way to see the
Change font Ctrl Shift F	properties of your
Change font size Ciri (Shift) F	favorite Windows 95
Increase font size Ctri (Shift) >	object? Hold down
Decrease font size	All and double-click
Increase font size by one point CM 1	on the object in
Decrease font size by one point Ctri (1)	question-instant 2008 NAM
Format letters as all capitals Ciri Shift A	properties.
Apply bold Ctri B	
Apply or remove underline Ctri U	
Underline single words Ctrl Shift W	Ox C==
Onderine single words	

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1.001 Windows 95 Tips: Microsoft PowerPoint 95 and Lotus SmartSuite



Duplicate	(Ctrl)(D)
Update links	Ctrl Shift F7
Show guides (toggle)	Cirig
Switch to master view	Shift on view button
Create new slide	[Ctr][M]
Create new slide without New Slide diale	
Insert date	Alt (Shift (D)
Insert page number	(Alt)(Shift)(P)
Insert time	(Alt)(Shift)(T)
Format character	Ctrl(T)
Center paragraph	CHIE
Justify paragraph	CHIJ
Left-align paragraph	CITE
Right-align paragraph	Ctrl R
Restore picture to proportional size	Shift) on resize handle
Move from title to text	Ctrl Enter
Show title in slide sorter view	(AIT)C®
	Ctrl Shift G
Group	CHI SHIT G
Ungroup	CIII SIIII TI



Display help contents screen
Display context-sensitive help
o to slide N
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how pointer
Iide pointer
top or restart automatic show
ind show
rase screen annotations
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eturn to previous slide

Word Pro: General

Go to next line



There are many ways to act address letters.





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But there's only one smart way to do both.

Featured in Fortune Magazine March 6, 1995



Pocket your pen. Toss your typewriter. And leave your laser printer alone. Because if you're using any of them to address envelopes or make labels, you're making things hard on yourself. After all, you could be using a Smart Label Printer.

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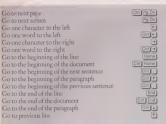
The Smart Label Printer Pro™ and the Smart Label Printer EZ30® Making labels any other way just wouldn't be smart. For more information, call 1-800-688-0817.

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Introducing the New Smart Label Printer EZ30

1.001 Windows 95 Tips: Lotus Word Pro and 1-2-3



WINDOWS 95	
Daniel Carwin. In the unlikely event that a Windows 95 program crashes, just press City All 90 to set everything right.	

Land of the same o	
Go to previous page	Ctrl Pg Up
Go to previous screen	Pg Up
Select a character	Shift →
Select a word	Ctrl Shift →
Extend selection to the end of a paragraph	Ctrl Shift ↓
Extend selection to the beginning of a paragraph	Ctrl Shift 1
Extend selection to the end of the document	Shift Ctrl End
	hift Ctrl Home
Extend selection to the end of the line	Shift End
Extend selection to the beginning of the line	Shift Home
Find & Replace	Ctrl F
Full page or previous layout view	Ctrl D
Go to	Ctrl G
Go to next item	Ctrl (H)
Insert glossary record	Ctrl K

Word Pro: Formatting

Access Styles box	Ctrl Y
Apply bold	Ctrl B
Apply italic	Ctrl I
Center	CtrlE
Underline	Ctrl U
Underline single words	Ctrl W
Normal text	Ctrl N
Format letters as all capitals	ANT, O, U
Format letters as all lowercase	ANT, C, E
Format letters with initial caps	ത്തെത്ത

Format letters with small caps	ART, O, S
lustify text	Ctrl J
Left-align text	CITIL
Right-align text	Ctrl R
Copy to clipboard	Ctri Ins
Copy to clipboard	Ctrl C
Cut	Shift Del
Cut	Ctrl X
Paste	Shift Ins
Paste	Ctrl V
Delete next word	Ctrl Del
Delete previous word	Ctrl Backspace
Draft or layout view	Ctrl M
Exchange paragraph with one above	All
Exchange paragraph with one below	Alt ↓
Fast Format	Ctrl T
Modify paragraph style	Ctrl A
Open document	CtrlO
Print document	Ctrl P
Save	Ctrl S
Show SmartIcons	Ctrl Q
Hide SmartIcons	Ctrl O
Y T. d	Alt (Packenace)

Lotus 1-2-3: General

Undo previous action Undo previous action Activate Insert dialog box Activate Insert dialog box

Compose special characters Turn on Step mode for macro debugging Display a list of macros in current file Enlarge current pane to full size Restore current pane to original size

Go to the previous worksheet
Go to the next worksheet
Go to the bottom-right corner of active area
Go to the next worksheet, same address
Go to the previous worksheet, same address

Activate Defete dialog box	on number of nothing
Open	Ctrl O
Print	Ctrl P
Save	Ctrl S
Paste from clipboard	Ctrl V
Cut to clipboard	Ctrl X
Copy to clipboard	Ctrl C
Clear cell contents	Del
Edit cell contents	F2
Get a name list of files, ranges, charts, etc.	F3
Toggle reference from absolute to mixed to	o relative F4
Go to specific range, worksheet, chart, file	
Move cellpointer between panes	F6
Update query	F7
Repeat the last Range Analyze What-if	F8

Go to cell A:A1 (or top-left cell with "frozen" titles) [Ctrl] Hon

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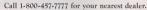


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Lotus Organizer: General Lotus Organizer: Pop-up Calendar Lotus Approach: General Group Insert current time Insert today's date

Microsoft Network	
Sign-in Screen	
Change user name	AllM
Enter password	AttP
Save password for reuse	AI(R)
Connect	ARIC
Change connection settings	Alt
Change connection bettings	
Microsoft Network Centr	al
Go to MSN Today	Alt
Place a shortcut to MSN Today on deskto	p Ctri S
Close MSN Today window	Alt F4
Retrieve or send c-mail	Alt M
Visit Favorite Places	Alt
Go to Member Assistance	AttS
Go to Categories	Alt C
Log out of MSN	ARF. T
Go to a service	AITE, G, O
Hide MSN Today at startup	All V.O. All S
Change idle time before disconnection	Alt V, O
Add or remove Toolbar	Alt V. T
Find information or service on MSN	ARF.M
Change password	Alt T. P
Change billing address	ART BPN
Change payment method	ANT B P.Y
Check summary of charges	AHT B.O
Check subscription status	ANTBS
Change connection settings	AIT.
Category Folders	
Discover a forum's Go word	C.R.G
Discover a forum's Rating	AB
Discover a forum's description	ANO.
Create an Explorer view on MSN	6
Log out	Alt)E), T
Leave a forum	Ctrl F4
Jump to an icon in a folder	Press its initial character(s)



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Show all Show drawing tools Show ruler

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Intellisense		4
BASIC scripts		V



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Go to Favorite Places	₩.D	Delete a selected object	Delete
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Find information or service on MSN		Delete character on the left	Backspace
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		Copy selected text or objects	Ctri Insert
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Save a message to your system	Ctrl S	Move selected text or objects	Ctrl X
	Alt Enter	Move selected text or objects	Shift Delete Ctrl V
	S, Alt A	Paste text or objects	Shift Insert
	Alt T. F.	Paste text or objects Paste text formats	Ctrl Shift V
Paste contents of Clipboard to a message Select contents of a message Ctrl (5) on nu		Begin a new paragraph	Enter
	Ctrl (P)	Begin new line without starting a new paragraph	Shift Enter
Print a message Compose a message	Ctrl (N)	Begin a new column of text	Ctrl Enter
Compose a reply	Ctrl A	Add a nonbreaking space Ctil	Shift (Spacebar)
Compose a reply to send via e-mail	Ctrl R	Add an optional hyphen	Ctrl -
Forward a message via e-mail	Ctrl F	Automatically add or remove hyphens	Ciri H
Go to next message	F5		trl Shift Enter
Go to previous message	Shift F5	Center a paragraph	Ctrl E
Go to next unread message	F6	Justify a paragraph	Ctrl J
		Align a paragraph at left margin	Ctrl L
		Align a paragraph at right margin	Ctrl R
EDITOR'S TIP WINDOWS 95		Format for single-space lines	Ctrl 1
		Format for double-space lines	Ctrl 2
Wonds Today Committee and a Cabo and		Format for 1.5-line spacing	Ctrl 5
Wendy Taylor: For a quick exit at the end of the da		Remove a space between paragraphs	Ctrl 0
you have open,	auons	Return a paragraph to the standard format	CMO
this shortcut	TA .	Check spelling	F7
makes them all go			Alt Backspace
away and finishes		Add a new page after the current page	Ctrl Shift N
the job by closing Restative consuler?		Toggle between current-page and actual-size view	Ctrl M
Mindows 05 itself Restat the congular in HS DOS mode		Move between background and foreground page Go to page X	F5 X
Dose all programs and log on as a different	THE LABOR !	Go to page A Go to next page	Shift F5
		Go to next page Go to previous page	Ctrl F5
Yes No	Dec	Co to previous page	

If you think data consumes capacity, wait until you try multimedia.



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So you want to do multimedia? Well, get ready for some conspicuous consumption. Because today's applications gobble up capacity faster than ever before. Audio. Video. Multimedia, Windows 95. The Internet. Who knows what's around the corner?

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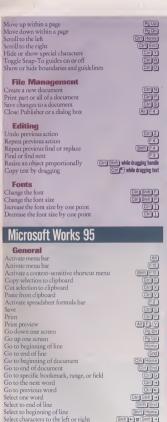
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1.001 Windows 95 Tips: Microsoft Publisher 95, Works 95, and Norton Navigator



Apply italic Apply underline Center Left-align text Right-align text Right-align text Open Font size dialog box Remove font size dialog box Remove font size dialog box Set hanging indent in word processor Set hanging indent in word processor Remove nested indent in word processor Apply comma format in spreadsheet Apply comma format in spreadsheet Apply currency format in spreadsheet Insert Autosum in spreadsheet Repeat last format Repeat last format Repeat last search Undo last change	Cal 1

Norton Navigator for Windows 95

General Go up one level in the folder tree Open the Speed Filter text box Open the Speed Select text box Start Speed Search on X Open the Move dialog box Activate the menu bar Open the Delete confirmation box Open the Properties dialog box Move the selected files Open the Create Folder dialog box



If you'd like an extra copy of this article, send your business card to 1,001 Windows 95 Shortcuts, PC Computing, 950 Tower Lane, 19th Floor, Foster City, CA 94404.

Ctrl B

Formatting

THE MOST POWERFUL MEMORY



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THE VERWHELMING CHOICE OF PC USERS!



Market Share Windows Illustration Software PC Data, December Sales, 1994

Company	Units	Sales
Corel	7,609	1,586,519.83
Adam	257	73,968.64
Micrografx	380	36,696.38
Deneba	98	15,899.24
Totals	8,344	1,713,083.90

The results are in!

CoreIDRAW is the #1 choice for PC users. Year after year, survey after survey. CoreIDRAW continues to dominate the illustration market with the best graphics software available.

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91.2%

CorelDRAW

Corel VENTURA* NUMBER ONE in PUBLISHING



Product	S.L.P. (US\$)	Score
Corel VENTURA 5	\$595	6.8
QuarkXPress	\$895	6.7
Aldus PageMaker	\$895	6.2



Corel PHOTO-PAINT * NUMBER ONE in IMAGE-EDITING

Product	S L.P (USS)	Oversill weighted
Corel PHOTO-PAINT 5 Plus	\$249	44
Mscrografs Picture Publisher 5.0	\$595	42
Adobe PhotoShop 3.0	5895	39
Fractal Design Painter 3	\$499	38

PC World, Best Buy Award, April, 1995

* Available as standalone products All product names are trademarks or registere



1-800-258-2088





CD-RON's Top 101 CDs

h, come on. The 101 best CDs? I mean, are there really 101 best of anything? Can you name 101 dishes you'd love to eat? Or 101 people you'd like to spend an evening with? Or 101 books you'd read again and again? I just hope you appreciate

what I had to go through to come up with the 101 best CD-ROM titles. I've worn out a whole speaker

system, not to mention two pairs of glasses, while listening to and watching all of these multimedia wonders. Gone are the days when a CD developer could toss a bunch of

public-domain text on a disc and make a bundle. Me? I use those CDs for coasters. But let's get on with it.

what makes a pop CD-ROMY One factor is that the subject matter is right for multimedia. And if a CD doesn't have sound, graphics, and video—pictures of flags of all nations plu tinkling MIDI renditions of the national anthems don't count—then maybe it shouldn't be on CD.

Another characteristic is that a top CD makes it easy for you to access its contents. The worst fault CDs have today is a too-clever interface, thanks to overambitious and overabundant developers. Some of them get so carried away with visuals, they don't provide any common menus or keystrokes to make exploring the disc easy. And finally, most of the

CDs here are Windows-based. It takes an exceptional DOS-based disc to offset the installation and compatibility headaches of DOS multimedia.

Of course, any new universe has
warps that produce twisted matter and
black holes that suck the life out of the
content. I'll steer you away from those
CDs—or at least the ten worst ones.

BY RON WHITE







Reference

THE 1995 GUINNESS MULTIMEDIA OISC OF RECORDS

It's one thing to read that the world's fattest sumo wrestler weighs 580 pounds. It's entirely different to see him in action, which is what you can do with this CD. The paperback will settle saloon bets, but multimedia's more fun.

The 1995 Guinness Multimedia Disc of Records / Groller Electronic Publishing / (800) 285-4534, (203) 797-3530 / \$50 est. street price / Reader Service No. 770

BRITANNICA CD OOOO

No encyclopedia is more authoritative than Britannica, and now there's a CD with the complete text—82,000 articles and 16 million references. A new edition with illustrations and a better search engine is due out soon. At this price, hold out for the new one.

Britannica CD / Encyclopaedia Britannica / (800) 323-1229, (312) 347-7127 / \$995 direct / Reader Service No. 771

THE FAMILY TREE MAKER DELUXE CD-ROM OOO

The 100 million names on this CD must include your ancestors. It's a well-thought-out program, but to learn the details of your genealogy, you'll need to buy additional CDs with more into—for \$18.99 to \$64.99.

The Family Tree Maker Deluxe CD-ROM / Banner Blue Software / (800) 387-2158, (510) 794-6850 / 560 est. street price / Reader Service No. 772

GARDEN ENCYCLOPEDIA

everything you need to be a successful gardener, from videos with planting instructions to a database for selecting plants that match your area. All it lacks is green paint for your thumb.

Garden Encyclopedia / Books That Work / (800) 242-4546, (415) 326-4280 / S30 est. street price / Reader Service No. 773

ENCARTA '95 0000 Microsoft's Encarta '95 encyclopedia

is the slicket thing this side of a Saint Louie card shark—and at times just as bewildering: multimedia constantly spills over as one of 6,500 photos, 100 videos, 83 animations, or the hundreds of maps, graphs, and sound bites.

Microsoft Encarta '95 / Microsoft / (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080 / \$99.95 est. stree price / Reader Service No. 774

опшинеи

Catch On to the Spin of Things: Reference CDs

No more last-minute cribbing from the World Book Encyclopedia and taking a teacher's dumb advice to look up a word you don't know how to spell in the first place. Reference CDs harness the power of computing to make anything from crosswords to annual reports easier and faster to do.

Bookshelf '95
OOOOO If you can spin only one

CD at a time, keep Bookshelf, the killer app for CD drives, loaded. It includes Columbia Ductionary of Quotations, with sound recordings of quotes; The American Heritage Ductionary, with more than 350,000 entries and sound bites of 80,000 words; Roget's Thesauris; The People's Chronology; Concise Columbia Encyclopedia; Hammond World Atlas: The World

Hammond World Atlas; The W. Almanac, Book of Facts 1994; a zipcode finder; and the year in
review. It's the best way to find
facts to buttress a sagging sales
plan or spice up a dry report
with a quote or visual. And the
interface and floating toolbar
make it accessible from any app.

Microsoft Bookshelf '95 / Microsoft / (800) 426-9400 / \$70 est. street price / Reader Service No. 775

Random House

Unabridged Electronic Dictionary 00000

This CD is a dandy (adj 2: Informal: something or someone of exceptional or first-rate quality) dictionary. With almost 315,000 entries—some 36 megs—the dictionary is the only newly updated, unabridged dictionary in years, and includes newly

OCOM Answers the meaning of life. OCOM Answers the meaning of life—but that wasn't the question. OCO Answers the meaning of Jerry Lewis. OCOM Answers the phone. OHub, could you repeat that?

coinages such as wannabe and CMOS. The fact that it's on CD just makes it easier to use. You can look up words using wildcards, or simply guess at the spelling. If you're not even sure if a word exists, type some words you think would be in the definition, and the dictionary presents entries that match your definition. There are lots of illustrations, and 115,000 words have spoken pronunciations. It's a must.

Random House Unabridged Electronic Dictionary / Random House Reference and Electronic Publishing / (800) 793-2665, (212) 751-2600 / 570 est. street price / Reader Service Na. 776

Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia

If you want facts the easy way, this is it. The best combo of information, multimedia, a choice

of interfaces for searching, and a feature that

UST 1995



A-Plus: Multimedia reports are a snap with Compton's encyclopedia slide-show feature.

lets you automate the creation of multimedia presentations—all rolled into one disc. Compton's "Idea Search" scours the disc's 35,000 articles to find those that have information related to a central topic and launches you on amazing pathways of knowledge. Virtual rooms—an artic, newsroom, and spaceship—provide a creative but usable interface. But if it all gets too confusing, Star Trek: The New Generation's Patrick Sexwart beams in for a guided tour or context-sensitive help. And Compton's is A-plus material. Unlike encyclopedias that sacrifice depth for breadth, this one gets into the nitty-gritte.

Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia 1995 / Compton's NewMedia / (800) 862-2206, (619) 929-2500 / \$80 est. street price / Reader Service No. 777

Home Repair Encyclopedia 2.0 00000

Who needs Bob Villa when you have a CD like this? This is the answer to a doit-yourself homeowner's prayers. Like any good encyclopedia, the Home Repair Encyclopedia, available for Windows or Macintosh, is authoritative and comprehensive—a collection of videos, animation, and text that focuses on repairs and problem solving, from termites to tite grouting. Several forms help you estimate the cost of projects. And even a thumb banger like me can understand the animation and videos that explain how to do things such as searching for studs and bracing furniture for earthquakes. Don't do it yourself. Do it with the Home Repair Encyclopedia.

Home Repair Encyclopedia 2.0 / Books That Work / (800) 242-4546, (415) 326-4280 / \$30 est. street price / Reader Service No. 778

Multimedia Business 500

Here's the next best thing; a collection of detailed data on the 500 biggest private and public companies in the United States. Don't pay too much attention to the multimedia in the title, however. These are mainly so-so Windows videos about companies and their products. The real core of information is nonmultimedia—old-fashioned text laten from Honore's Handibook.

of American Business and Standard & Poor's statistics. It lets you dig out everything you'd want to know about a company, including the names and salaries of executives, and sales and stock-price histories.

Multimedia Business 500 / Allegro New Media / (800) 424-1992, (201) 808-1992 / \$50 est, street price / Reader Service No. 779

Taxi

Taxi with Zagat Surveys OOOOO A traditional way to get

the inside scoop on a city is to sak taxi drivers. A better way is to fire up Taxi, a CD-ROM packed with intelligent maps of 20 cities from Boston to San Diego (5-city versions are available in different combinations for \$60). The maps are linked to the authoritative Zagat travel guides, which include detailed appraisals of hotels and restaurants. Taxi provides information on all the places that match your food, service, and pricing criteria, and shows you the best route to them on a map. You can print the maps or copy them to a hard disk so vou don't have to carry a CD-

ROM drive around. No tipping required. Taxi with Zagat Surveys / News Electronic Data / (800) 439-8294, (908) 735-2555 / \$180 est. street price / Reader Service No. 780

Autorisip head Atles

Automap Road Atlas

Tripmaker 00000 An atlas that shows the historical

borders of the Ottoman Empire is fine in the classroom, but when you're on the road trying to find Poughkeepsie, New York, you need one of these. The programs use Wirards to quickly produce maps that cover the roads and sights on any auto trip. Automap prints the entire route on one sheet, followed by pages of instructions. Rand McNally Tripmaker takes a better approach. It breaks the route into one map for each day of driving. It also tells you how long the trip will take (even if you can't drive 55 miles an hour), how much the gas will cost, and provides choices of secnic or fast routes. Unless you're a homing piecon, this CD's for you.

Automap Road Atlas / Microsoft / (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080 / S40 est. street price / Reader Service No. 781

Tripmaker / Rand McNally / (800) 871-5006, (708) 329-8100 / \$59 est street price / Reader Service No. 782



Scan/US 00000 Census statistics? Let's see how big

we can yawn. But translate the dull numbers into information-packed maps, and you have a terrific way to look at where people are—alone with their money.

Scan/US / Scan/US / (800) 272-2687, (310) 820-1581 / \$495 est, street price / Reader Service No. 783

Reference

THE NEW OICTIONARY OF THE LIVING WORLD

Quick! A five-letter word for major muscle proteins? Asannok/It's actin. With this CD, you could find that answer in milliseconds. The CD defines 2,500 biological terms from abaxia/to zygotene, backed by hundreds of photos, animations, videos, maps, and sound clins.

The New Dictionary of the Living World / Media Design Interactive / (800) 654-8802 / \$40 est, street price / Reader Service No. 784

PHONEOISC POWERFINGER OOOO SELECT PHONE OOOO

Don't call us. We'll call you. And we really can with either of these phone books on multiple discs. Just don't ask us to choose between the two. They're equally accurate for tracking down numbers. You can search by name, phone number, street address, city, state, zip code, business hame, business type, or Standard Industry Chacilifeation number.

PhoneDisc PowerFinder / Digital Directory Assistance / (800) 284-8353, (617) 639-2900 / 5249 est. street price / Reader Service No. 785

Select Phone / Pro CD / (800) 992-3766, (508) 750-0055 / \$149 est. street price / Reader Service No. 786

THE 1995 GROLIER MULTIMEDIA ENCYCLOPEDIA

The newest Grolier's has more videos, more animation, and clever touches, such as Pathmakers—grainy video interviews with the likes of Buzz Aldrin and Jackie Joyner-Kersee. Its Knowledge Explorers are multimedia essays on topics like world history, the human body, and technology.

The 1995 Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia / Grolier Electronic Publishing / (800) 285-4534, (203) 797-3530 / 5100 est, street price / Reader Service No. 787

OR. RUTH'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SEX

Stop that giggling! This is
simply sweet little Dr. Ruth
chatting cheerfully about body
parts, sexual positions, and
devices that don't get reviewed in
computer magazines. It's about as
X-rated as a dos-food commercial.

Dr. Ruth's Encyclopedia of Sex / Creative Multimedia / (800) 262-7668 / \$30 est. street price / Reader Service No. 788

JOB-POWER SOURCE OOO This CD doesn't give you a magic

route to a better job, but it does help you on your way. It requires a

continued



Reference

lot of input and thought on your part—one exercise even has you write your own obituary. If you don't get a new job after exploring its material on interviews, networking, and writing letters and résumés, then forget it: You might as well open up that sidewalk lemonade stand.

Job-Power Source / InfoBusiness / (800) 657-5300, (801) 221-1100 / \$40 est. street price / Reader Service No. 789

MULTIMEDIA ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

You have to be a major science work to get this CD. But if you're looking for no-frills, hard-core techie info in text, illustrations, and animation, there's nothing better. It sports a retail price of \$1,300, which is \$600 less than the 20-volume printed version.

Multimedia Encyclopedia of Science & Technology / McGraw-Hill / (800) 722-4726 / \$1,300, two workstations; \$1,800, two to eight workstations (direct) / Reader Service No. 790

WORLO ATLAS OOO

This CD-ROM includes border and topographical maps with a multimedia touch: national anthems and slide shows for every country, and video and sound for selected cities.

World Atlas / Mindscape / (800) 234-3088, (415) 883-3000 / \$50 est. street price / Reader Service No. 701

Finance

BUSINESS SENSE SERIES

Some are born to leadership; others have leadership thrust upon them. And some are trained from a CD. This one's a pricey but slick course with video, narration, and illustrations on how to motivate others and deal with the stress of leadership—while avoiding the Mickey Mouse school of

Business Sense Series Leading Teams / National Education Training Group / (800) 526-6452, (708) 369-3000 / \$1,200 est. street price / Reader Service No. 792

CONSUMER INFORMATION OOO
The Feds spend millions creating reams of information. You can get it

сопитиеа

Make **Money** Fun: Playing CDs for Dollars

OK, so being a success really isn't a game. But there's no reason it should be all drudgery, either. All of these CDs help you reach your career and financial goals a lot easier and a lot faster—and some of them make it more fun than anything related to finances has a right to be.



CPA on a Disc: Tax Assistants pop up to offer you pertinent advice in TaxCut.

TaxCut 0000

Need tax help with a human touch?
With the TaxCut CD-ROM, you get
an animated Tax Assistant who talks you
through the process of filling out those tedous
tax forms. Need information on topics such
as home-office deductions? TaxCut also features videotaped experts who tally out straightout whether or not you're likely to get away
with specific tax deductions.

TaxCut / Block Financial Software / (800) 288-6322, (203) 255-1441 / S30 est. street price / Reader Service No. 793

Quicken 4 for Windows Deluxe CD-ROM 00000

Quicken should need no introduction. It's everyone's favorite personal finance manager. Well, Quicken on CD is even better. Its multifiedia tutorials show you how to manage your investments as well as your day-today expenses. Quicken also includes a tax guide, mutual-fund selector, stock guide, home inventory, modern links to thousands of stock and mutual-fund prices, video advice from top financial experts, and instant graphic snapshots of your financial picture—all in a bargain package you can't do without. Try Quicken on CD, and if you're still not getting rich, at least you'll know why.

Quicken 4 for Windows Deluxe CD-ROM / Intuit / (800) 624-8742, (415) 322-0573 / \$60 est. street price / Reader Service No. 794

Multimedia MBA Small Business Edition 00000

Oh, sure. Some CD is going to give you the equivalent of an MBA. Maybe not, but this collection of tutorials, multimedia, and tools is as close as you can get to earning an MBA without attending an 8 a.m. class. The videos, animation, and examples of real advertisements make their points quickly and effectively. The most impressive part of the CD is its tools—worksheets linked to your own electronic spreadsheet; legal, advertising, and human-resource forms linked to your word processor; and a stand-alone general ledger. If you have to enter the world of small business, cover yourself with his CD.

Multimedia MBA Small Business Edition / SoftKey Int'l / (800) 227-5609, (404) 428-0008 / \$80 est. street price / Reader Service No. 795



Fiscal Frolic: Handling your money is more enjoyable with Quicken CD's multimedia aids.

OOOOO The corner office. OOOO Executive rest-room key. OOO A desk near the Xerox machine. OO In charge of the Xerox machine. OYa want fries with that?

Business Library, Volume 1 00000 Just about every would-be

entrepreneur needs this collection of 12 books on one CD. Want to know what the principles of a successful telemarketing campaign are? What is the tax benefit of real-estate trusts? Or which is the best bath in Baden-Baden, Germany? The disc includes books on marketing, finance, real estate, international business, sales, and climbing the career ladder. Hah! We spit on your MBA from Harvard!

Business Library, Volume 1 / Allegro New Media / (800) 424-1992, (201) 808-1992 / \$38 est. street price / Reader Service No. 796

Berlitz, Live Japanese OOOOO Any language CD can

teach you Japanese. But how many CDs explain the important ritual of bowing during the exchange of meishi (business cards) in Japan? This disc provides an excellent multimedia language course that takes the quick-and-dirty approach, emphasizing the business phrases vou're most likely to need-plus the body language and customs to accompany them. Even if you have no desire to learn Japanese, the business tips are invaluable. A Spanish edition is also available.

Berlitz, Live Japanese / Sierra On-Line / (800) 757-7707, (206) 649-9800 / S90 est. street price / Reader Service No. 797

Quicken Financial Planner 00000 Anv financial planner can tell

you how much money you'll have when you retire: not enough. Ouicken Financial Planner tells you what you can do to change that. You answer a bunch of questions about your

current finances, and the CD tells you how you must invest them to reach your golden years with some gold in the bank.

Quicken Financial Planner / Intuit / (800) 224-0873 / \$40 est, street price / Reader Service No. 798

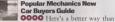
Consumer Survival Kit by Clark Howard 0000

It's a jungle out there, and the folks who survive are armed with the advice of people like consumer guru Clark Howard. His survival kit covers the big basics, such as investments, insurance, and real estate; and the small specifics, such as how to return a lemon.

Consumer Survival Kit by Clark Howard / IBM / (800) 426-7235 / \$26 est, street price / Reader Service No. 799 **Your Mutual Fund** Selector 0000

Are you afraid to get into mutual funds on your own? This CD asks the right questions to determine your goals and risk tolerance, and then suggests funds from the 1,000 evaluated by Morningstar.

Your Mutual Fund Selector / Intuit / (800) 816-8025 / \$40 est, street price / Reader Service No. 800



kicking tires to buy a car. This CD from the editors of Popular Mechanics does all the research for you. You pick the type of car you want, the price, mileage, safety features, and options, and the CD gives you details on the vehicles that match your specs, including a write-up and photograph. You can even view

the cars in different colors. Popular Mechanics New Car Buyers Guide / Books That Work / (800) 242-4546 (415) 326-4280 / S30 est. street price / Reader Service No. 801



info you need, it's very likely you'll

Consumer Information / Quanta Press / (612) 379-3956 /

GOVERNMENT GIVEAWAYS FOR ENTREPRENEURS 3.0.000

already researched the topic and has the answer. And if you need money, around just waiting to be claimed. Learn how to get your share.

Government Giveaways for \$35 est, street price /

INFORMATION USA 3.0 OOO Get on a par with the hig guys by entrepreneurs can use for free or little charge, and organizations to gripe to the next time you're ticked off at a husiness or hureaucrat.

Information USA 3.0 / InfoBusiness / (800) 657-5300. (801) 221-1100 / \$45 est, street price / Reader Service No. 804

JONATHAN PONO'S PERSONAL FINANCIAL PLANNER COO

If you're awash in personal finances, then you need this CD. Answer a few questions, and you get a customized reading list so you can skip the chapters you don't need. Answer more questions as you read, and you get customized advice for your age, goals, income,

Ionathan Pond's Personal Financial Planner / Vertigo Development Group / (800) 688-4750, (617) 225-2136 / Reader Service No. 805

YOUR PORTFOLIO INTERACTIVE OOO Don't know the difference

between a no-load and an expense ratio? Then turn to this CD, a good introduction to mutual funds, complete with a ten-question quiz to find out your level of risk. There's information on 100 mutual funds and online connections to Reuters Money Network.

Your Portfolio Interactive CNBC and Compton's NewMedia / (800) 862-2206, (619) 929-2500 / \$40 est. street price / Reader Service No. 806



Current Events

THE HALDEMAN DIARIES OOOOO This is a

political junkie's special stash-the diary of H.R. Haldeman while he was President Nixon's chief of staff nlus the movies he made at the White House. photos, and appointment books-the original source material that historians drool over. The Windows interface makes it a snap to research.

The Haldeman Diaries / Sony Imagesoft / (800) 922-7669 / Reader Service No. 807

CNN TIME CAPSULE: THE 100 DEFINING MOMENTS OF 1994 OOOO Admittedly, the 1994

version is now a bit dated, but these annual discs from CNN are the best year-in-reviews I've seen. If the adventures of Nancy Kerrigan and the death of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis are too old for you, keep an eye out for the 1995 edition.

CNN Time Capsule: The 100 Defining Moments of 1994 Vicanous / (800) 465-6543 / Reader Service No. 808

EXPLORING ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE COCO

Take virtual walks through human habitats like Stonehenge and the feel for perspective and layout that you can't get from mere nhotographs.

Exploring Ancient Architecture / Medio Multimedia / (800) 788-3866, (206) 867-5500 / \$35 est, street price /

GETTYSBURG MULTIMEDIA BATTLE SIMULATION OOOO

Half history and half game, this CD will keep the Civil War alive as long as there's a CD-ROM drive still standing, Refight Gettysburg with your own strategy, or watch troops reenact the original battle

Gettysburg Multimedia Battle Simulation / Turner Home (802) 862-8881 / \$50 est. street

THE PLAYBOY INTERVIEW: THREE DECADES OOOO

These interviews are a wide-ranging look at three decades as seen by people such as Jimmy Carter, David Letterman, Salvador Dali, Lee

continued

History Hound?

News Junkie? You're Home.

For folks who have an insatiable craving for facts. CDs are perfect: They can hold a ton of information, and can present it as spoken by FDR, for

instance, or as seen by news cameras, in an ideal mix of sight and sound.



Normandy: The Great Crusade 0000

This CD proves there is a way to bring history to life, and to make it as interesting and immediate as a live news report. Normandy: The Great Crusade explores the Allied invasion of France from different angles, You immerse yourself in the mood of the home fronts in the United States, France, England, and Germany-right down to the latest swing tune. You see the invasion through maps or atthe-scene newsreels. Letters reveal the fright that was felt by the soldiers who charged the body-draped beaches. This is a great CD to check out if you want to experience a turning point in the fate of the world

Normandy: The Great Crusade / The Discovery Channel Multimedia / (800) 762-2189, (317) 579-0400 / \$49.95 est. street price / Reader Service No. 812



J.F.K. Assassination: A Visual Investigation 0000

Just when I thought I would scream if I heard one more conspiracy theory, I happened upon a wealth of details presented so skillfully that I found myself fascinated all over again. J.F.K. Assassination: A Visual Investigation combines text, home movies, sound recordings, and animation to explore the 30year-old murder of President John F. Kennedy. Slow-motion animations trace the paths of bullets in various scenarios of the murder. The CD's text, which is linked by hypertext keywords, covers all the assassination theories. The disc provides you with more than enough material to investigate a subject that no amount of research will ever make sense of

J.F.K. Assassination: A Visual Investigation / Medio Multimedia / (800) 788-3866, (206) 867-5500 / \$40 est. street price / Reader Service No. 813

Vietnam 00000 The viewpoint of this CD isn't new; Vietnam was a dirty little war that divided our country. But the CD brings a freshness in its excellent selection of videos, photos, narration, and text. It lets you explore ideas and events with an excellent interface and hypertext writing, including the Pentagon Papers. And it keeps the war in perspective with a time line. There must be something still to be learned from Vietnam, and this CD is a good place to reexamine it.

Vietnam / Medio Multimedia / (800) 788-3866 / \$40 est. street price / Reader Service No. 811

00000 Journalism Pulitzer. 0000 Front-page exclusive. 000 Buried in the classifieds. OO Supermarket tabloid. O Fish wrap.

486, Pentium, PowerMac...

No matter how fast your PC is, it can't outrun a power problem

(Get Uninterruptible...starting at \$119)

ust don't have the time for power problems on your PC? Don't worry. They'll always make the time for you. It's not if a power problem will occur, but when Duetohousehold appliances, poorwining badweather or even other office equipment, power problems are as inevitable as death

IN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS, MORE THAN 30,000,000 PCs WILL BE HIT BY POWER PROBLEMS...

In fact, you have better odds of winning the lottery than of escaping the sting of power problems on your PC. One study discovered a typical PC is hit over 100 times a month, causing keyboardlockups, harddrivedamage, andworse. Andsincesags andblackoutsrepresentmorethan 85% of nower problems likely to hityourcomputer, standard surge suppressors are literally power-



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less to protect you. And a study in a recent PCWeek showed that the largest single cause of data loss is bad power, accounting for almost as much data loss as all other causes combined. PROTECT YOURSELF BEFORE YOU KICK YOURSELF...

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protection.	Please	send	the	name	of	my	neare	st de	aler.
No! But I	would	like	a F	REE :	Han	dbo	ok.		

Company	
Street/City/State	

Phone/fax: Brands of UPS used? __ _# servers/PCs to be protected?



What are the causes and effects



-800-4APC

7 on reader service card.



Current Events

THE HALDEMAN DIARIES

political junkie's special stash—the diary of H.R. Haldeman while he was President Nixon's chief of staff, plus the movies he made at the White House, photos, and appointment books—the original source material that historians drool over. The Windows interface makes if a shan to research.

The Haldeman Diaries / Sony Imagesoft / (800) 922-7689 / \$55 est. street price / Reader Service No. 807

CNN TIME CAPSULE: THE 100 DEFINING MOMENTS OF 1994 OOOO Admittedly, the 1994

version is now a bit dated, but these annual discs from CNN are the best year-in-reviews I've seen. If the adventures of Nancy Kerrigan and the death of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis are too old for you, keep an eye out for the 1995 edition.

CNN Time Capsule: The 100 Defining Moments of 1994 / Vicarious / (800) 465-6543 / \$30 est. street price / Reader Service No. 868

EXPLORING ANCIENT

Take virtual walks through human habitats like Stonehenge and the Parthenon. The walks give you a feel for perspective and layout that you can't get from mere photographs.

Exploring Ancient Architecture / Medio Multimedia / (800) 788-3866, (206) 867-5500 / \$35 est. street pnce / Reader Service No. 809

GETTYSBURG MULTIMEDIA BATTLE SIMULATION OCOO

Half history and half game, this CD will keep the Civil War alive as long as there's a CD-ROM drive still standing. Refight Gettysburg with your own strategy, or watch troops reenact the original battle movements onscreen.

Gettysburg Multimedia Battle Simulation / Turner Home Entertainment / (800) 294-0022, (802) 862-8881 / 550 est. street pnce / Reader Service No. 810

THE PLAYBOY INTERVIEW: THREE DECADES OOO

These interviews are a wide-ranging look at three decades as seen by people such as Jimmy Carter, David Letterman, Salvador Dali, Lee

continued

History Hound?

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Normandy: The Great Crusade / The Discovery Channel Multimedia / (800) 762-2189, (317) 579-0400 / \$49.95 est. street price / Reader Service No. 812



J.F.K. Assassination: A Visual Investigation OCCO Just when I thought I would scream if

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486, Pentium, PowerMac...

No matter how fast your PC is, it can't outrun a power problem

(Get Uninterruptible...starting at \$119)

ust don't have the time for power problems on your PC? Don't worry. They'll always make the time for you. It's not if a power problem will occur, but when Due to household appliances, poor wiring, bad weather or even other office equipment, power problems are as inevitable as death

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less to protect you. And a study in a recent PCWeek showed that the largest single cause of data loss is bad power, accounting for almost as much data loss as all other causes combined.

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Current Events

lacocca, and Robert Frost. There are photographs, but you won't have to hide them under your mattress

The Playboy Interview: Three Decades / IBM Multimedia Publishing Studio / (800) 898-8842 / S40 est, street price

TIME ALMANAC OF THE

20TH CENTURY QQQQ Through sound clips, video, photos, and text, this CD covers the dving century in a vision woven of politics. war, technology, and people. Its easyto-access multimedia lets you amble through whichever year you choose.

Time Almanac of the 20th Century / SoftKey Int'l / (800) 227-5609 / \$30 est, street price / Reader Service No. 815

20TH CENTURY VIDEO ALMANAC OOO Here is a visual history of the modern United States, Watch, for example, Martin Luther King, Jr., speak the night before his assassination. Depth of content is limited in favor of visual impact, making it better for reminiscing than reference.

20th Century Video Almanac / (A15) 883-3000 / San est street price /

7 DAYS IN AUGUST OOO

In 1961, building an atomic-bomb shelter in your backvard seemed as sensible as putting up storm windows. Look at what was happening in Berlin, Germany, and Berlin, Wisconsin, during those seven days the Soviets built the Berlin Wall,

7 Days in August / Time Warner active / (800) 482-3766 (818) 295-6600 / \$60 est. street

Adult Education

A.O.A.M. THE INSIDE STORY OOOOO Slide a button, and layer bones. It's not gross, really, even in

A.D.A.M. the Inside Story /

HOW YOUR BOOY WORKS OOOOO Over the lips and through the gums-look out.

These CDs Aren't Silver— They're **Gray Matter**

Oh, if only they'd had CD-ROMs when I was in school, Who knows, I might not have had to take four years of French 1. CDs make learning so much fun, they're better than carving Fave Ann Reinlander's name into your desk.

The Way Things Work
This is for the inquisitive kid in you who still wants to tear apart the toaster to see what makes it work-without risking electrocution. Everything from levers to microprocessors is explained with whimsical animations and home movies of woolly mammoths, and all of this is inspired by David Macaulay's best-selling book.

The Way Things Work / DK Multimedia / (800) 225-3362, (212) 213-4800 / \$50 est, street price / Reader Service No. 819



Stephen Biesty's Incredible Cross-Sections Stowaway OCCOO Avast, me hardy! Set your

sights on Stephen Biesty's Incredible Cross-Sections Stowaway! The CD slices a sailing ship of vore crosswise so you can explore in detail every nook and cranny of the galleon. The explorations include humans as well as timbers: the roles crew members played in the social and working life of the ship, how they advanced as seamen, and how they could get killed.

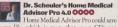
Stephen Biesty's Incredible Cross-Sections Stowaway / DK Multimedia / (800) 225-3362, (212) 213-4800 / \$35 est. street price / Reader Service No. 820



A Brief History of Time

OOOOO Have you ever wondered what time and space really are? Now we have a minor quantum leap toward understanding such concepts: A Brief History of Time. The CD contains the entire text of Stephen Hawking's best-selling book, accompanied by animations, a woman who resembles Monty Python in drag, and the "Hawking Craft" to fly to the nearest black star.

A Brief History of Time / Creative Labs / (800) 998-5227, (408) 428-6600 / \$35 est, street price / Reader Service No. 821



Dr. Scheuler's Home Medical Advisor Pro 4.0 0000

your life, which is more than most CDs can claim. You give it your symptoms, and it tells you what's wrong-or asks more questions to narrow down the possibilities. Like any home doctoring, the CD should be used with some common sense. If you're bleeding, if you can actually see any of your bones-or if rap music starts sounding good—see a real doctor.

Dr. Scheuler's Home Medical Advisor Pro 4.0 / Pixel Perfect / (800) 788-2099, (407) 779-0310 / \$60 est, street price / Reader Service No. 822

00000 Graduate summa cum laude. 0000 Graduate in three years. 000 Almost graduate except for missing PE requirements, OO GED, O Flunk Sesame Street,

Now Everyone Can Have The Superior Monitor.





If you've always wanted a top performing monitor, now is the time.

Even the coolest dudes find Nanao's new 17" monitors irresistible. Our new T2-17TS and F2-17EX monitors can't be heat for

graphics quality. Which is why they're setting sales records at computer stores. Users are also drawn by Nanao's reputation for quality plus a stunning new array of advanced technical features that are ideally suited for the graphics environment. Nanao even offers a choice of 17" models to satisfy your individual preference. Our FlexScan T2.17TS has an advanced Aperture Grill tube, while the F2+17EX features a flat-screen. Invar Shadow Mask tube. Both monitors provide the power you really need to achieve true-to-life colors, crisp typography and a stable screen image. Ultra high 1280 x 1024 resolution at 82Hz refresh rate, Colorific" color management software and on-screen image controls deliver a new level of graphics performance. For added safety against radiation emissions, TCO compliance is now available as a standard feature. And each monitor supports Windows '95 Plug & Play," so you'll be in tune with the latest wave of technology.

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On Screen Control

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Cinemania '95

OOOOO Here's the

everything a multimedia CD-ROM

should be. It has the perfect subject mat-

ter-more than 19,000 movies with reviews

written by Roger Ebert, Pauline Kael, and

Leonard Maltin, complemented by a movie ency-

clopedia, Have a blast sampling all manner of

movies through videos, sound clips, and pho-

tographs. I wish there were more than 19 film

clips, but what it does have is prime stuff: the

eerie sound of Hal dying in 2001: A Space

Odyssey, the "As Time Goes By" scene from

Casablanca, Scarlett O'Hara throwing a

tantrum-every single one of them a bona fide

chase: Cinemania '95 is



Adult Education

stomach, here comes an animated tour down the alimentary canal and other assorted parts of the human body. Great artwork, superb explanations.

How Your Body Works / Mindscape / (800) 234-3088, (415) 883-3000 / \$40 est. street price / Reader Service No. 823

DISTANT SUNS OOOO

Get a new look at Earth from Uranus, for example. Distant Suns lets you position yourself anywhere in the solar system to see what the Tralfamdorians see. Also good for earthbound star gazing, who complete control over the detail you see.

Distant Suns / Virtual Reality Laboratories / (800) 829-8754, (805) 545-8515 / \$40 est. street price / Reader Service No. 824

HOW MULTIMEDIA COMPUTERS WORK OOOO

Based on the How It Works illustrations in PC Computing, this CD is a great way to learn more about the inner workings of your PC. Are we biased? Sure. But don't believe us; believe the New York Multimedia Festival gold medal and other awards it has won.

How Multimedia Computers Work / Mindscape / (800) 234-3088, (415) 883-3000 / \$50 est. street price / Reader Service No. 825

MAYO CLINIC FAMILY HEALTH BOOK

OOOO For the health-obsessed or
merely curious, here's a collection of
videos, animation, narration, and
text, replete with obscure and more
deadly causes for all those pains
and palpitations.

Mayo Clinic Family Health Book / IVI Publishing / (800) 432-1332, (612) 996-6000 / \$45 est. street pncs / Reader Service No. 826

Leisure Time

LITTLE MONSTER AT SCHOOL,
RUFF'S BONE,
HARRY AND THE HAUNTED HOUSE,
ARTHUR'S TEACHER TROUBLE
These are meant for
small children, but don't you
believe it. I've yet to see an adult
who doesn't get a kick out of

clicking onscreen to produce a

continued

Take Some **Time Off**—Run CDs

Just for the Fun of It

OK, we know what you told your partner, your purchasing department, and maybe even yourself: "I need this CD-ROM drive strictly for business—really." Yeah, right!

classic. This stupendous collection of information is delightfully tied together with an interface that's clever, easy, and fun.

> Cinemania '95 / Microsoft / (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080 / \$60 est. street price / Reader Service No. 827

> > The 7th Guest

mysterious adventure game ("Go North," "Take key"), but at an eerie new level of multimedia reality. Explore a haunted house with only a skeleton's hand as your guide. Yh Guest blends 3-D animation, video, and sound seamlessly, all of which turn his CD into a penuinely spooly experience.

The 7th Guest / Virgin Interactive Entertainment / (800) 874-4607, (714) 833-1999 / \$55 est. street price / Reader Service No. 828

Art Gallery: The Collection of the National Art Gallery

More than a classy art show, this CD is based on London's National Gallery, a treasure trove of more than 2,000 paintings from the 13th to 20th centuries. The disc brings the art to life with animations, demonstrating things like

how paintings are restored. In some ways it's better than the real thing—a lot cheaper than flying to London, and you can do things you can't do in real life. Just 124, as Art Gallery does, drawing red lines on the real Martyrdom of Saint Sebastian to explain the painting's composition, and see what happens.

Art Gallery: The Collection of the National Art Gallery / Microsoft / (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080 / \$80 est. street price / Reader Service No. 829

October Backstage passes to Pink Floyd. October Courtside seats at Madison Square Garden.
October A pocketful of change in an arcade. Octobering night at a gallery featuring kindergarten art.
Pee bad root canals that are more fun than this.



Art Unearthed: View an art collection hidden from the public for years in A Passion for Art.



A Passion for Art 0000

A collection of Impressionist and other modern art was kept in private hands for years. This excellently designed CD brings it to the public. Art lovers will adore it.

A Passion for Art / Corbis Publishing / (800) 260-0444 / \$45 est. street pnce / Reader Service No. 830



7 Dinosaurs 00000

Not a Jurassic junkie? You'll still be DNGAR hooked on this imaginative look at dinosaurs. Track down terrible lizards based on when or where they lived, or take a guided tour. We'd call this a great educational tool, but that would make it sound less fun than it is.

Dinosaurs / Microsoft Corp. / (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080 / \$60 est. street price / Reader Service No. 811



RedShift Multimedia Astronomy 0000

Oh, I suppose that if you don't have an abiding interest in the stars, you may think Red-Shift is an elaborate waste of time. But I hope you're not that jaded, because if you are, you're missing a fascinating experience. I know we've all seen those astronomy/planetarium Windows programs before and were nearly hospitalized with the vawns, But RedShift is different, (Trust me.) Virtually anything you could want to do with astronomy software, any way you could want to look at the stars and planets-from vast panoramas to low, sweeping flybys over alien terrain-vou can do with RedShift. The color photography is beautiful, and the way you can play with the universe is totally absorbing. RedShift is an elaborate use-not waste-of time.

RedShift Multimedia Astronomy / Maxis Multimedia / (800) 338-2947, (415) 492-2819 / \$55 est. street price / Reader Service No. 812



The Journeyman Project Turbo 00000

has you lying awake at night, tempted to sneak back downstairs to the computer for another whirl. Who cares if you're a little late for work in the morning? After all, world peace is threatened by a time machine that can undo history unless you stop it. The setup mixes adventuregame exploration with arcade action enhanced by animation and video. But it's filled with so much satiric detail that you can pass an evening happily just exploring an apartment building.

The Journeyman Project Turbo / Sanctuary Woods Multimedia / (415) 286-6000 / \$40 est, street price / Reader Service No. 811



Doom II: Hell on Earth OOOOO Are the games here to

tame? Feel like kicking butt? Try Doom II, a DOS disc that pits you and your shotgun against assorted demons in a virtual reality you have to experience. This has more levels, more bad guys, and more weapons than the old version of Doom, And for some real fun, bring your entire company to a halt by playing it over a network.

Doom II: Hell on Earth / GT Interactive Software / (800) 362-9400, (203) 294-9514 / \$45 est, street price / Reader Service No. 814



Complete Baseball 00000

Did you get withdrawal shakes during the baseball strike? Couldn't cat pea-

nuts or Cracker Jacks without getting weepy? You could have used this CD packed with statistics, history, lore, photos, and videos. Check out the electronic newspaper to keep those stats current now that they are playing ball.

Complete Baseball / Microsoft / (800) 426-9400 / \$55 est. street price / Reader Service No. 815



Sam & Max Hit the Road

OCOO This CD is another exception to the rule that games can't be funny.

Despite being animated, it's a sophisticated adult game featuring a dog dressed in a cheap suit and a naked rabbit whose primary concern is finding a bathroom. They're stuck in a tongue-in-cheek film noir that combines Bogart ambiance with animation that rings of '60s underground comics. The premise is to help Sam and Max find a carnival's missing bigfoot, but who cares? It's fun poking them around just to see what happens next. Sam & Max Hit the Road / Lucas Arts Entertainment /

(800) 782-7927, (415) 721-3300 / \$35 est. street price / Reader Service No. 836



Funny Bone: Do you like irreverent humor? Then get Sam & Max Hit the Road.

Leisure Time

surnrise And the stories are good even without the singing bathtubs and exploding golf balls

Little Monster at School, Ruff's Bone, Harry and the Haunted House, Arthur's Teacher Trouble / Living Books / (800) 776-4724 (415) 382-7818 / \$40 each, est. street price / Reader Service No. 817

OCCOO TENSTILL

Lead interstellar pioneers escaping Earth's destruction to make the hard decisions-how many people to take how many supplies, where to land, and how to build the infrastructure that will let the species survive.

Outpost / Sierra On-Line / (800) 757-7707 (208) 649-9800 / \$60 est. street price / Reader Service No. 818

CRITERION GOES TO THE MOVIES OOOO Know the difference

hetween Ingrid and Ingmar Bergman? Then you're a cinema connoisseur, and you'll want this CD-ROM It has clins from 140. movies from The Birth of a Nation to Boyz N the Hood-all classics. Criterion Goes to the Movies /

Vovager / (800) 446-2001 / \$25 est, street price. Reader Service No. 810

A HARO DAY'S NIGHT OOOD

Here is the Beatles' entire first movie, plus the complete script, ad-libs. background, and criticism. The image quality isn't as good as videotape, but if you want to immerse yourself in a movie, this is the way to go.

A Hard Day's Night / Voyager / (800) 446-2001, (914) 591-5500 / \$40 est, street price / Reader Service No. 840

FUNNY OOO

Don't look for redeeming social value. This is simply videos of people (some famous, some not) telling jokes-really funny ones. Roam the jokes based on subject matter, rating (G to X), or genre (sight gags, riddles, tasteless).

Funny / Time Warner Interactive / (800) 482-3766, (818) 955-9999 / \$40 est, street price Reader Service No. 841

IN THE COMPANY OF WHALES COO This has a ton of info about whales

in photo, video, or animation. Too bad the section on whale singing has Star Trek's Captain Picard talking over the whales' songs.

In the Company of Whales / The Discovery Channel Multimedia / (800) 762-2189, (317) 579-0400 / \$40 est, street price. Reader Service No. 84:

continued



Leisure Time

MEGA MOVIE CILIDE 3 DOOO

Mega Movie Guide is the other movie CD. Mega goes for quantity. with twice as many movies (42,000) and film clips (39) as in Microsoft's Cinemania '95 It doesn't have Cinemania's panache, but it's still a must for movie buffs.

Mega Movie Guide 3.0 / lusiness / (800) 657-5300, (801) 221-1100 / \$40 est. street price / Reader Service No. 842

MUSICAL WORLD DE PROFESSOR PICCOLO

OOO Welcome to Music Town's symphony hall, nightclubs, and gospel-filled churches. It looks like a kids' CD but teaches both kids and adults about all kinds of music Piccolo does for rock, ballad, and razz improvisation what Microsoft's CDs did for classical music

Musical World of Professor Piccolo / Opcode Interactive / (415) 856-3333 / \$30 est, street price / Reader Service No. 844

SPORTS ILLUSTRATEO MULTIMEDIA SPORTS ALMANAC, 1995 EDITION OOO Video highlights from the big pro events, and enough stats and trivia to satisfy any armchair athlete. plus the full text of an entire year of Sports Illustrated. Look for the 1996 edition, which will actually cover '95.

Sports Illustrated Multimedia Sports Almanac, 1995 Edition / Star Press Multimedia / (800) 782-7944 / \$40 est, street price / Reader Service No. 845

XPLORA 1: PETER GABRIEL'S SECRET WORLD OOO

An original look at an original musician, the disc mixes animation, video, music, and plugs for Amnesty International, Xplora takes a little exploring, but its attractions are worth the search.

Xplora 1: Peter Gabriel's Secret World / Interplay Productions / (800) 969-4263, (714) 553-6655 /

YES ACTIVE OOO

Yes is one rock group that rates a close look via CD. The disc has seven full songs and videos that include a view of how they're created. But the profiles of the performers-complete with their hobbies, eye color, and marital status-smacks of a fanzine.

Yes Active / Compton's price / Reader Service No. 847



Beautiful Music: Simultaneously see and hear Microsoft's Musical Instruments.

Musical Instruments 00000 This is the way information about

This is the way into musical instruments should be presented: with the ability to play their sounds while you see what the instruments look like. On instruments in a classical orchestra or a heavy-metal band, click on labels for more info about part of an instrument and to hear variations on how it's played. Get it and get down. And don't forget to get back up again.

Musical Instruments / Microsoft / (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080 / \$60 est, street price / Reader Service No. 848



Dangerous Creatures 00000

This CD zeros in on the most enticing sorts of animals-the kind that bite, sting, claw, and poison-with Microsoft's hallmark attention to interface and detail. Dangerous Creatures has guided tours of the Amazon, Africa, coral reefs, and other parts of the animal kingdom, but it's hard to stay on a tour for long because you're given so many tempting opportunities to explore other topics. It's a CD that's hard to exhaust.

Dangerous Creatures / Microsoft / (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080 / \$60 est. street price / Reader Service No. 840

Golf Multimedia Edition

OOOO This is a heck of a lot better than carrying those heavy golf clubs and walking around for hours in the hot sun. Microsoft's Golf Multimedia Edition lets you avoid muscle strain and sunburn, while also providing the real challenge of putting that little ball in that little hole. You control the direction, force, and snap of an onscreen golfer's swing. You see the golf course in perspective views, as a map, and through flybys that give you a ball's-eye view of the fairways as it soars through the air from tee to green. The animation is spectacular.

Golf Multimedia Edition / Microsoft / (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080 / \$50 est. street price / Reader Service No. 850



Rock 'n' Roll Your Own 0000

Mena Rock, Ran 'n' Roll 0000

These are two CDs with virtually the same engine for playing music with your mouse and keyboard. They have clever variations of the basic interface and collections of sounds, howls, and music. Both of them are fun for the air-musician nerd.

Rock 'n' Roll Your Own / Compton's NewMedia / (800) 862-2206, (619) 929-2500 / \$18 to \$20 est. street price / Reader Service No. 851

Mega Rock, Rap 'n' Roll / Paramount Interactive / Viacom New Media / (800) 469-2539, (708) 520-4440 / \$30 est. street price / Reader Service No. 8 c2



Mystifying: Be digitally dazzled while you're exploring beautiful illustrations.

Myst 00000 You don't shoot anyone in Myst, and

vou don't die. Instead vou explore a small island searching for . . . well, you don't know, and it doesn't matter. The illustrations are so detailed and gorgeous that just wandering the island is like spending a relaxing day roaming around a new park-but one that has buildings to explore, switches to throw, and a spaceship and time machine. If you're an overachiever, there are puzzles to solve, clues to follow, and (finally) an object to the game. If you want action, try Street Fighter. This is seductive and sedative entertainment.

Myst / Broderbund Software / (800) 521-6263, (415) 382-4400 / S55 est, street price / Reader Service No. 853

OOOOO Backstage passes to Pink Floyd. OOOO Courtside seats at Madison Square Garden. OOO A pocketful of change in an arcade. OO Opening night at a gallery featuring kindergarten art. I've had root canals that are more fun than this.



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CorelSCSI Version 2 The Best Software to Connect SCSI Peripherals \$89,99*



Wacky and Wild

AS MADE FAMOUS BY ELVIS OOO Haven't sighted Elvis lately?

Then it's time to play this CD, pick up the mike, and generally be a fool. There's genius here. Elvis imitators were waiting for karaoke to be invented and didn't even know it This dedication goes out to them.

As Made Famous by Elvis / Sirius Publishing / (800) 247-0307, (802) 951-3288 / \$16 est, street price / Reader Service No. 854

HACKER CHRONICLES: A TOUR OF THE COMPUTER UNDERGROUND. VOLUMES 1 AND 2 OOO

The DOS CD's cover warns, "This material ... in and of itself is not illegal. (but) quite often the usage of certain information is illegal." No kedding. It covers potentially helpful stuff like "fun with ATMs" and building bombs. The information can be used to prevent phone theft and hackers breaking into systems. Some items should be kept out of the hands of anyone wearing camouflage gear.

Hacker Chronicles: A Tour of the Computer Underground, Volumes 1 and 2 / P-80 Systems / price / Reader Service No. 855

KNOW YOUR WATERFOWL OOO Quick, what's the sound a fulvous whistling duck makes? If you can't Your Waterfowl, The CD contains

figure it out from the fact that it's a whistling duck, then you need Know more than most people would ever want to learn about ducks, geese. Know Your Waterfowl / Axia Int'l /

HTIW SZENDAM ELVON THEIR OIM GILBERT GOTTFRIED OOO

Gottfried isn't in it much. Mostly it's Space, starring Zsa Zsa Gabor, Movie categories include Big Monkeys, Men you're a fan of "Mystery Science Theater 3000," you'll want this

Midnight Movie Madness with Gilbert Gottfried / Medio Multimedia / (800) 788-3866 (206) 867-5500 / \$40 est street price / Reader Service No. 857

TAB OF COW OOO This is the all-time weirdest CD. The DOS disc is filled with images of cows, with delicate musical

You Don't Have to Be **Crazy.** But It Helps ...

Go wild with these CD-ROMs. Some of them defy any other categorization but weird. Even so, your brain will be refreshed and your life a little richer for having run them. Just don't ask me how.

Monty Python's Complete Waste of Time 00000

If the orderliness and logic of computing threatens to turn you into a Mr. Spock, slip this CD into your drive until you're certifiably human again. The disc is a compilation of Python animation and the best BBC skits-the cheese shop, dead parrot, and argument clinic, among others-all scattered willy-nilly through an interface that confounds reason. A click-anywhere at all-may elicit a game of Spot the Looney, the famous Lumberjack Song, or a warning not to click there again. If you don't click on anything at all, the CD proceeds in its own chaotic fashion. The disc also includes a collection of sounds, wallpaper, icons, and screen savers to waste even more time. (Nudge, nudge, wink, wink.)

Monty Python's Complete Waste of Time / 7th Level / (800) 884-8863. (214) 498-8100 / \$50 est. street price Reader Service No. 858

Virtual Guitar 0000 This CD-cum-plastic musical

instrument is the ultimate air guitar, usable even if you have fingers like bananas. Plug the guitar into your serial port, pop the CD into your drive, and suddenly you're Jimmy Page-or as close as you'll get in this lifetime, fumble-fingers. A moving bar at the bottom of the screen tells you when to strum-no fancy picking required-and translates your strum into

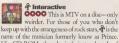
proper sounds for rhythm, lead, or stunt guitar. If you feel like improvising, there are buttons to control volume, distortion, and feedback-everything real guitarists need to drive their families



00000 An acid trip without the annoying side effects. 0000 Rocky Mountain high, OOO Two six-packs. OO Jalapeño snorting. O Cake in your face.

crazy. The song selections are guitar-heavy bands such as Morley Criie and The Allman Brothers Band. But you can get other CDsan Aerosmith disc, for example—that let you play with them. Bitchin'!

Virtual Guitar / Ahead / (800) 872-7827, (617) 271-0900 / S95 est, street price / Reader Service No. 859



name of the musician formerly know as Prince. His CD-ROM, though, isn't just a bunch of music videos thrown onto a disc. It's also a game in which you explore the Pleasure Dome, seeing videos of his career and songs along the way. The feel of the CD is remarkably similar to that of Myst, a more intellectually challenging CD-ROM game. Both are unrushed, nonviolent explorations, but & Interactive has scantily clad women who ask you to touch them.

¶Interactive / Graphix Zone / (800) 828-3838, (714) 833-3838 / \$45 est. street price / Reader Service No. 860

Ephemeral Films 1931-1960 0000

Media archeologist Richard Prelinger has collected some classically campy educational films and infomercials about a forgotten way of life. What were once serious attempts to brainwash us into believing in better living through technology and the idealization of American life, are now the shards of a lost civilization that reveal the strange folkways of history. Back then, a film called Dating Do's and Don'ts showed young men the peril of lunging for a good-night kiss. Another tells how housewives of 1957 led stressfree lives through the miracle of tranquilizers. There are moments when it's a bit sad, all that lost innocence and all, but mostly it's just a hoot.

Ephemeral Films 1931-1960 / Voyager / (800) 446-2001, (814) 591-5500 / \$25 est, street price / Reader Service No. 861

Take Your Best Shot OOOO A fat, pink man appears on

screen and pulls his eyeballs out so they're dangling by the optic nerves. Whenever you hit a computer key, you get the sound of an explosion, grunt, or some wet, squishy sound. Either (a) you're crazy, or (b) someone installed Take Your Best Shot while you were gone. Based on Bill Plympton's animation, this is a collection of games, screen savers, sounds, and icons filled with exploding heads and other mayhem, all directed at a pudgy guy who could easily be an IRS agent, your boss, or anyone else you daydream about maiming. If you have a twisted mind, Take Your Best Shot will keep you busy till they take you away.

Take Your Best Shot / 7th Level / (800) 884-8863, (214) 498-8100 / \$20 est. street price / Reader Service No. 862



Strange Encounters: Take a spin with UFO. a visual database of alien encounters.

UFO 0000

Are you also tired of waiting for understanding aliens from Alpha Centauri to beam you up into their mother ship? Maybe you've been trying to get picked up in all the wrong places. What you need to meet your favorite Martian is UFO, a Windows CD that contains a complete database of UFO encounters by place, date, number of flying saucers, abductions, and cattle mutilations. Based on the criteria you choose, a map pinpoints popular spots for the vacationing Trafaldorian. You can click on any of the spots to get the eerie details of the encounters, often including video or photos. UFO-don't leave Farth without it.

UFO / SoftKey Int'l / (800) 227-5609. (617) 494-1200 / \$40 est, street price / Reader Service No. 863

ROMaterial 0000

You're so far ahead in your work that you have the 1999 budget completed.

Why, you've answered memos you haven't even received yet. At the end of a day like this. it's goofin' time! And if vou're talking serious goofing around, you're talking CD-ROM. The vast capacities of a CD make it possible for software to provide material to waste time until the next millennium. Perfect for the control freak. ROMaterial offers huge collections of sounds, icons, wallpapers, screen savers, and cursors so that you can customize Windows until it becomes an interface that says, "Bug off. This is my PC." It contains more toys than you'll ever need. Its Animated cursors can make Program Manager look like a Looney Tunes

ROMaterial / Moon Valley Software / (800) 473-5509, (805) 781-3890 / \$20 est, street price / Reader Service No. 864

Wacky and Wild

backgrounds and a running commentary on the wonderfulness of examples of cow philosophythings like "Cheese is a higher form of Cow." I don't know what any of it means. Some things just are

Tao of Cow / Quanta Press / (612) 379-3956 / \$20 est. street price / Reader Service No. 865

TERRORIST GROUP PROFILES OOO Refore April 19 1995, this DOS CD was more a curiosity than anything else. The Oklahoma City bombing brings it back into the spotlight, although the information is a product of the Reagan era. Unfortunately, some of it is still accurate. Quanta will release a newer disc soon, with undates of the militias that are now No. 1 on the groups-to-fear list

Terrorist Group Profiles / Quanta Press / (612) 379-3956 / \$30 est, street price/ Reader Service No. 866

WALKTHROUGHS AND FLYBYS OOO Nothing useful here at all but I still like this CD for its 500MB of computer animation, sound effects and cyberpunk music. Some of the art shows the crudeness of a new medium, but most of it is great.

Walkthroughs and Flybys / Waite Group Press / (800) 368-9369 / Reader Service No. 867





The Ten Least Wanted CD Dogs

These discs broke out and made it past the guards to launch a reign of terror over an unsuspecting nation. Some of the dogs listed here have already been put to sleep by publishers underwhelmed with buyer response. Others are still at large. Read and beware!

Product	Price*	Review	Verdict	
The Anglo-Saxons \$34 Cambrix Publishing, (800) 992-8781 Reader Service No. 868		Is your idea of a great time trying to guess ancient Anglo-Saxon riddles-written in Old English? Unless you're very, very white, use this to play fetch with Fido.		
Exploring Ancient Cities Sumeria, (800) 478-6374 Reader Service No. 869	\$45	Stodginess must be so ingrained in Scientific American that it could make even an Indiana Jones tale boring. This CD reduces romance to the dryness of a late-afternoon lecture by John Houseman.	00	
The Lifestyles of the Rich &- Famous Cookbook by Robin Leach Compton's New Media, (800) 862-2206	NA	A perfectly useless piece of fluff combined with some delicious-sounding recipes from the royal tables of Monaco, Liz and Larry's wedding, and other places you haven't been invited to. Thank goodness.	00	
AnnaTommy IVI Publishing, (800) 432-1332 Reader Service No. 871	\$35	A lot like the movie Fantastic Voyage but without the fun, the flair, or the infamous giant-white-corpuscles-meet-Raquel Welch scene. You'll have more fun and learn more anatomy watching the movie.	0	
Capitol Hill Mindscape, (800) 234-3088 Reader Service No. 872	\$40	It's supposed to be virtual politics, but it's too squeaky clean. A text blurb says because the speaker is over the entire House, he tries to be nonpartisan. Yeah, sure, tell me another one.	0	
Deep Voyage SoftKey Int'l, (800) 227-5609 Reader Service No. 873	\$20	High on my list of reasons for buying a CD-ROM drive was so I could spend hours looking at sea anemones while I listen to New Age music. You too?	6	
Illustrated Facts: How Things Work Xiphias	NA	Its interface is impossible. Its presentation is insulting. And its content short-changes you with stock videos instead of really showing how things work: A video of some Texas countryside is your visual for microchips.	0	
Man Enough Tsunami Media, (209) 683-8266	NA	Beautiful women insult your intelligence, looks, and personality. If you're somehow so pathetically desperate to put up with that, it winds up being a giant tease. Virtual high school—no, thanks.	0	
Morphman Dynamic Dimensions Development**	NA	You're able to control what happens only at specific points in a very dumb plot. Choose incorrectly, and Morphman bites the big one and you start the sequence again. Gets old receasa/fast.	0	
Wrath of the Gods Luminaria, (800) 821-2060 Reader Service No. 875 NA - NOT AVAILABLE PRODUCT HAS BEEN DISCONDING	\$45	Multimedia's not always cool. Here video and animation in the service of a game only make the tales that were good enough to survive for centuries incredibly boring.	6	

♦♦ It has some redeeming quality, but it's still a bowwow. ♦ Visualize world dog-vomit.

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PHASEWRITER DUAL



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Roll Your Own

ouldn't it be nice to cut your own CD-ROMs? Think of the hundreds of megabytes of data you could easily distribute on a single disc. Think of the knock-'em-dead presentations packed with sound and video you could show off on your multimedia notebook. Think of the simplicity and convenience of archiving all

Best CD-Recordable: Yamaha's CDE100 was the only flawless performer among the CD-R drives we tested. It doesn't come with any mastering software, but the program Yamaha recommends— Incat's Easy-CD Pro 3.0—was also the best. your applications with one mouse click. Well, it's time to stop thinking and start doing.

What's been stopping you? CD-recordable (CD-R) technology too expensive? Two years ago you couldn't get at CD-R drive for under \$10,000. Now the average price is around \$3,000. Not enough people have CD-ROM drives? Today you have to go out of your way to buy a PC that doesn't have at least one CD-ROM drive. Software too difficult to use? Well, OK, You have a point. Most CD-R drives are still being used by professional developers who are willing to put up with more software eccentricities and less support than the rest of us who do more than press discs for a living. At least that's what we found when testing seven external CD-R drives—four quad-speed models and three double-speed models.

If you think the price is right and don't mind putting up with software that can be temperamental at times, CD-R technology has a lot to offer. You can use it to archive files to create an unerasable audit trail, to make the wiring plans for your office tower more manageable, or even to create a disc of favorite songs. The capaciousness and ubiquitousness of CDs make them ideal for distributing multimedia presentations, large databases, and gargantan cratalogs. A CD-R drive may be more trouble and expense than a tape drive for backup, but unlike tape, which can be accessed only sequentially, a CD has random access just like a hard drive. And in a pinch you can use backups of files from the CD itself.

If CD-R technology sounds like a solution to any of your problems, start pressing your own discs immediately. And at the rate prices are dropping, you'll soon be able to justify getting a CD-R drive simply to make your own music discs.

BY RON WHITE

Pressing Business

Executive Summary

What makes the biggest difference in a CD-R drive? It's not the hardware, it's the software. And the best all-around CD mastering software is Incat's 5500 Easy-CD Pro 3.0. It's not bundled with any of the drives we tested, but Yamaha recommends it for its CDE100, which earned our PCC Best award for its speed and flawless disc production. Other vendors agree with our choice in hardware—four of the seven drives we tested use the Yamaha mechanism.

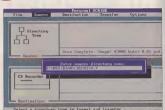
We put seven drives through a scenario of typical recording tasks—375MB of data and three audio tracks. We then tested the results with ECI Disk Detective 2.84 and played the discs on a variety of PC CD-ROM drives and Sony's Discman (for the audio tracks).

CD mastering software puts computer files and audio and video tracks into a special ordered format. The CD-R drive then takes the formatted data and presses it onto a disc so that it can be read by any CD-ROM drive. Better CD-R mastering software handles two operations before you actually burn the CD. One creates a virtual image on a hard drive of the files to be recorded on CD. This virtual image doesn't contain the files themselves, but shows the order in which to record the files and points to their locations. The order of the images is important because it affects access times. The other operation creates a physical image of the files, an intact copy on a hard drive of all the files ordered by the virtual image. You use the physical image to simulate playing the CD as a test before actually pressing the disc.

All of the software applications we tested create virtual images, but Incat's Easy-CD Pro 3.0 (which we tested with Yamaha's CDE100) and WinOn-CDtoGo (bundled with Philips's CDD522) are the

	Easy-CD F				
CD-Image Edit Ire	e View S	2ptions	CD-Becorde	r <u>H</u> el	p
	M = 80	1 1 1		9	
1			Yamaha	CDR100	(0.1.0)
- COMPLIB - CATTACH - CYDEN10 - CYDEN11 - CYDEN11 - CYDEN12	CICOMPU CIPCC CICITW DOWNL DISETUP	OAD WRI	6784 270073	8/4/95	

Turn and Burn: Drag files from any source visible in File Manager into Easy-CD Pro 3.0's main window and use the graphical toolbar to press your CD-ROM.



CD-Aaargh! Personal Scribe 2.1's cryptic DOS interface is made more complicated by its lack of a browse feature.

only programs that automatically optimize images.

Önly two of the programs didn't create physical images. Corel CD Creator (bundled with Smart and Friendly's CD-R4000) was simple to use except for the installation, and it was the only program with a tutorial and a wizard to help with CD creation, Personal Scribe 2.1 (bundled with Meridian Data's Personal Scribe 1000) was the only DOS software of the bunch, and it proves that if DOS isn't dead, it should be.

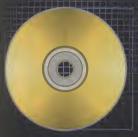
Highlights Only our overall favorite software, Easy-CD Pro 30, created CDs that passed Disk Detective's test for a post gap, which identifies the end of a session. Most companies that samp CDs for mass production require this marker, JVC's Personal Archiver 3.0 had the best simulation feature, but it only archives to create multimedia CDs. WinOnCDtoGo was the interface winner. If you can use Ile Manager, you can use WinOnCDtoGo. Corel CD Creator was intuitive as well. Another easy-to-use mastering program, prinancle Micro's RCD-1000 software, is a proprietary version of Easy-CD Pro with less polish.

Lowlights Dataware's CD-Record 2.12, bundled with Microboards PlayWrite 4000, was the worst of the Windows programs. It's needlessly difficult, it won't won't 32-bit disk access, and it distorts sounds so badly you'd think it was an alley cat doing Hendrix.

Several programs required adjusting memory managers, digging to find driver names, or guessing, which parts to install first. If CD-R is going to be a technologo everyone can benefit from, developers of mastering software need to pay attention to the real world and the way most people use PCs. But software isn't the only problem. On the hardware end, we found that an additional SCSI adapter was necessary—an item that only JVC, Smart and Friendly, and Pinnacle Micro included.

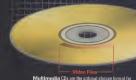
CD-ROM: The Media of Choice

While CD-ROM drives use a laser to read data, CD-R drives use a laser to record data. The surface of a CD-R disc is also different from that of a standard CD-ROM. Although they both have a polycarbonate base, the CD-R disc has a soft gold di-polymer layer sealed on its underside. This is the surface the leset cuts into to store data.



Storage Capacity





Multimedia CDs are the optimal storage format for mixed-mode data. Aside from the large amounts of data you can store on a single disc, with good mastering software you can assign different types of data to different sectors on the disc for top performance.

Universal Portability It's virtually impossible to buy a desktop PC without a CD-ROM drive these days. This means that no matter where you go you'll be able to use and access your CD-R-based presentation or database.

Durability CDs are not indestructible, but they're far more arrable than other portable storage media such as tape. The polycarbonat coating on a CD is much more difficult to scratch or warp than standard manner of the coating of

Rating CD-R Drives

Product	Price*	Belle	Š	Paris Paris	Performance	Usability	Technology	Verdict
Yamaha CDE100 Yamaha (800) 543-7457 Reader Service No. 741	\$2,995	None**	No	4X	**** Produced flawless CDs in our tests. Only one to pass post-gap check.	**** Powerful features, nice toolbars add to ease of use.	**** The mechanism behind other CD-R drives.	*** Fast hardware, cheap even with the software cost.
Philips CDD522 Philips (800) 777-5674, (719) 593-7900 Reader Service No. 742	\$1,900	WinOn- CDtoGo	No	2X	*** Average 2X drive, passed all but post-gap check.	*** Easy to create CDs, software similar to File Manager.	*** Biggest buffer for smoother recording.	***½ Excellent software usability, but only 2X. Good bargain.
Smart and Friendly CD-R4000 Smart and Friendly (818) 994-8001 Reader Service No. 743	\$3,800	Corel CD Creator	Yes	4X	***% Fast recording, but failed post-gap check.	*** Easy to use, with wizards and tutorial, but lacks simulation.	*** Yamaha mechanism Inside.	* * Fast hardware, complete but expensive package.
Pinnacle Micro RCD-1000 Pinnacle Micro (800) 553-7070, (714) 789-3000 Reader Service No. 744	\$1,795	Pinnacle Micro RCD-1000 software	Yes	2X	**' Failed post- gap check and had trouble playing on some 4X drives.	**** Software based on top-rated Easy-CD Pro with backup program.	** Large buffer, fast access, but still only 2X.	* * ½ Would be the best bargain except for failed 4X compatibility.
Personal Archiver JVC; (714) 261-1292 Rexder Service No. 745	\$1,695	Personal Archiver 3.0	Yes	2X	** Failed post-gap check, difficulties on some 4X drives.	*% Can't create mixed-mode CDs.	** Large buffer, fast access, but only 2X.	* * Slow drive, software is too limited.
PlayWrite 4000 Microboard; (800) 646-8881 Resder Service No. 746	\$2,995	CD- Record 2.12	No	4X	** Produced poor audio tracks, failed post-gap check.	** Difficult to transfer files.	**** Yamaha mechanism inside.	* * Not suited for multimedia CDs
Personal Scribe 1000 Meridian Data (800) 767-2537, (408) 438-3100 Reader Service No. 747	\$6,195 list	Personal Scribe 2.1	No	4X	**** Fast recording, but failed post-gap check.	* Crude DOS software, lacks features such as simulation.	**** Yamaha mechanism inside.	★½ Poor usability, list price is gouging.

Feel the **Burn**

The two most daunting factors holding back the proliferation of CD-R technology have been drive prices and the difficulty of pressing discs. Well, considering that prices are dropping and mastering software is slowly getting easier to use, spinning your own discs can now be a reality. The price of Yamaha's CDE100, our winner (and the guts of every quad-speed CD-R drive we tested), dropped 20 percent this summer and sells for \$2,995. The high quality of the discs the CDE100 produced was largely due to the software used to create them, Incat's Easy-CD Pro 3.0 (recommended but not bundled with the drive). This \$500 program turned out to have the best combination of usability and performance. Even with the additional cost of the software, you're still under \$3,500 for the best of a technology that was upwards of \$10,000 just a few years ago. And by the end of 1996, look for the price of double-speed drives to fall well below \$1,000.

To get the throughput needed for flawless recordings, you should have two SCSI adapters—one for the

CD-R and one for your SCSI hard drive. Most drives, including the CDE 100, don't provide them. You'll also incur the cost of a dedicated hard drive to store the physical image of the CD you're burning. At the very least you'll need 500MB of free disks pace, but we recommend 1GB. The biggest cost, however, will be time—to install any of these programs, coal luck support to find out what to do next, and to learn the ins and outs of a process that can sometimes try your patience. Again, the iright software can make all the difference.

If your budge is tight and you don't mind using a double-speed drive, you have two choices: Philips's CDD522, which sells for \$1,900, and Pinnacle Micro's RCD-1000, which sells for \$1,979. While the WinOnCDoG os fivare bundled with the Philips drive is not as full featured as Easy-CD Pro 3.0, it's very intuitive, as is the software that comes with prinacle Micro's drive. For the time being, these two devices represent the least expensive way to get into serious CD-ROM production.

DECISION MAI	KER WHICH IS THE	BEST CD-RECORDABLE D	DRIVE FOR YOUR NEEDS?
What type of CD do you want to produce?	How will the CDs be used?	3 Which is more important?	The solution you should look at first is
	In-house	Time	Yamaha CDE100
Multimedia	Presentations	Мопеу	Pinnacle RCD-1000
munnicula	Consumers	Time	Yamaha CDE100
V	Consumers	Money	Yamaha CDE100
	Occasional	Time	Yamaha CDE100
Archives	Archiving	Money	Philips CDD522
and/or Backup	Daily Backups	Time	Yamaha CDE100
	Daily Dackups	Money	Philips CDD522
	Fewer Than	Time	Yamaha CDE 100
Data	20 Discs	Money	Philips CDD522
Distribution	More Than	Time	Yamaha CDE100
	20 Discs	Money	Yamaha CDE100

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The New Prodigy and Communities of interest are scheduled for availability in the Summer of 1995. New Prodigis science design is prototype only. The PRODIGY Web Browser is available only for Windows! Windows is a register interdement of Microsoft Disporation. PRODIGY is a registered tradement of Prodigy Services Company. © 1999 Prodigiscompany. Windows is a registered tradement of Prodigy Services Company. © 1999 Prodigiscompany.



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Put Your NET on the Internet

ongratulations! Everybody in your office wants access to the Internet—to find information on the World Wide Web, to broaden their e-mail horizons, maybe even to publish their own corporate home

page. As the resident Net-guru, you've just been elected to do the job. Pronto.

When it was just you and a handful of online veterans cruising the Web, dial-up software and individual accounts from your local service provider did the trick. But put more than 15 soon-to-be Net addicts online, and your support headaches multiply exponentially. Not only will you have to troubleshoot each individual Internet hookup. but your network throughout will suffer simificantly.

There's got to be an easier way. Fortunately, there is. You might have to dig deep into your pockets and brush up on your Unix, but you can get your entire LAN onto the Net in one giant step. You'll save time and money, and deliver better and more robust Internet access to everyone in your workgroup.

The simplest and most powerful—and, not surprisingly, priciest—option is to install a dedicated Unix server on your network. The most complete of these solutions—Sun's Netra

Internet Server—bundles all the hardware and software you'll need, hides the messy Unix details, and even walks you through the configuration and housekeeping steps you'll need to tailor the server to your own network.

If you already have the necessary networking and server power—or want to avoid Unix—you may be able to upgrade your network by adding a few pieces of hardware and software. On a tight budget, a softwareonly alternative can transform a spare PC into a Web server or Internet connection point. Your coworkers will surely thank you—just as soon as they loe off.

BY NEIL RANDALL

Instant **Access** for All

A dedicated Unix server is the most direct way to get your LAN on the Internet, and once connected you'll find Unix is still the best-developed operating system for administering it. That picture may change as Windows NT and Windows 95 take hold, but right now these turnkey solutions deliver the full potential of the Internet while taking the edge off a difficult operating system.

SUN MICROSYSTEMS NETRA INTERNET SERVER

Configures Itself

Long a leader in the Unix workstation and server market, Sun Microsystems recently introduced the Netra Internet Server. It ships in one of two primary configurations to meet the needs of different size LANs. The Netra i work-group server, designed for 10 to 50 users, includes either a 70MHz MicroSpare. Il processor and 16MB of RAM, or a 85MHz MicroSpare. Il processor with 32MB of RAM. The beefier Netra i departmental server, designed for groups of 25 to 250 users, features a 60MHz SuperSpare processor and 32MB of RAM. These remotely configurable servers include an internal CD-ROM and a built-in 10MB-per-second Ethernet connection as standard equipment on all three systems.

Either version is equipped with a wide range of software designed for quick and reliable Internet connection. Both run the Solaris 2.4 Unix operating system (which is well-supported among Internet software designers), and include preinstalled software for e-mail, FTP, and Telnet. To build security against intruders, you can add Sun's

Solstice FireWall-1 software. Other Internet tools are also available. Popular choices include NCSA's Mosaic and NCSA's Mosaic and Netscape's Navigator Web browsers, or a freeware or commercial Web server package if you plan to creat your own Web server site.

What makes the Netra server family unique is its easy installation and setup.

Turn it on and listen to the questions it asks. A human voice guides you through the setup, telling you how to connect your existing LAN and how to log on to the server, establish IP addresses, set user options, and so forth. These tasks are handled either with the included CD-ROM or by installing a disk from your Internet provider that contains a configuration file. The Next as server save you the time involved in setting up separate TCP/IP stacks on individual machines on your LAN (which is necessary with most router solutions). If a disk from your Internet service provider is available, you can be up and running in less than a half hour.

The Netra family supports Ethernet, Token Ring, and optional high-speed serial interface connections. The server can work in conjunction with external routers to provide more sophisticated network connections.

The Netra line gives you all the power you'll ever need to connect a small- to medium-size LAN to the Internet while avoiding the configuration pitfalls that beleaguer most IS managers. These servers provide plenty of power to get your LAN not the Net. They're so easy to install and configure, your users will be up and surfing in no time. Sun's Netra servers take the fear out of administering Unix servers and put you in complete command of the machine and put you in complete command of the machine.

FILEBOX

Netra Internet Server

Pros: Easy setup for LANs of various sizes.

Cons: Requires familiarity

with Sun's Unix operating system, Solaris.

Verdict: Powerful and easy to use, albeit expensive.

50,999 for Netra i Workgroup; \$15,499 for Netra i departmental Sun Microsystems (800) 821–4643 Reader Service No. 755



DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORP. ALPHA SERVERS

Expandable Trio

Digital Equipment Corp.'s Alpha line is designed with a range of LAN sizes in mind. While a LAN of fewer than 20 users probably wouldn't require a full-strength Unix server as an Internet gateway, any larger workgroup or department could easily benefit from one of DEC's solutions. The Alpha family comes in three models: the AlphaStation 200 4/166 features a 166MHz Alpha processor and 32MB of RAM: the AlphaStation 400 4/233 ships with 32MB of RAM and a 233MHz

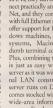
processor; and the high-end AlphaServer 1000 4/233 comes with a 233MHz processor, 64MB of RAM, and extra features including a 2MB cache and a 4GB DAT tape backup unit. All systems include a CD-ROM drive, Ethernet card, and either three, six, or ten empty PCI and ISA peripheral slots, depend-

ing upon the model.

Although DEC's Alpha servers work well with NetWare LANs, they can be used to connect practically any LAN to the Net, and they come configured with full Ethernet support. They offer support for DOS or Windows machines, X Windows systems, Macintoshes, and dumb terminal configurations. Plus, combining these systems is just as easy with an Alpha server as it was with your original LAN construction. The

server runs on DEC's Unix operating system and comes stocked with software for e-mail, Telnet, FTP, wide-area information server (WAIS), and newsgroups. Further, all models ship with Netscape's World Wide Web Netsite server software so you can use the server to publish a secure Web page.

Altogether, DEC provides a powerful family of tools that gives you the power to connect to the Net and the configurability to do it your way.





Built for the Web

Silicon Graphics has bypassed the all-in-one Internet server solution for an all-in-one solution for serving World Wide Web documents. The Web is the fastest growing portion of the Internet, but it's also the most demanding. And while the WebForce server family can serve up the entire Net, it's designedand priced-for high-speed access to the Web. And that's two-way access: browsing and publishing.

WebForce servers come in three varieties: WebForce Indv, WebForce Indigo2 Extreme, and WebForce Challenge S. For NetWare users, the Challenge S is the most attractive choice, offering support for both

> NetWare and Mac LANs. The server ships with either the 100MHz MIPS R4600 or the 150MHz R4400 CPU; a primary and secondary data

> > cache: 16MB to

256MB of RAM; integrated SCSI-2, ISDN, Attachment Unit Interface (a type of Ethernet connection), and ISDN ports; plus two Ethernet ports. Silicon Graphics also includes TCP/IP and a variety of other network software drivers.

Although configuring a Web-Force server requires expertise in TCP/IP environments, this machine offers built-in support for the construction and design of Web sites, Included is Net-

scape's Netsite Communications Server software (you can upgrade to the fully secured Netsite Commerce Server), so all that's needed is Web authoring software. Silicon Graphics offers its own WebMagic Author for this purpose, as well as several other multimedia design packages that are included with the Indy and Indigo2 Extreme servers but not the Challenge S. If you're serious about Web authoring, Indy or Indigo2 might suit you better.

FILEBOX

Alpha Servers

Pros: Expandable and powerful series of servers. Cons: Requires Unix expertise both for setup

and management.

Verdict: High-powered. but costly to administer.

\$5 425 for AlphaStation 200 4/186: \$9.915 for AlphaStation 400 A/233: \$17 980 for AlphaServer 400 4/233 Reader Service No. 756

WebForce

Pros: Superb graphics and video tools for full Web design and implementation Cons: Demands Unix expertise.

Verdict: Great for creating a Web page: more than you need for basic Internet access

\$10,995 for Indv. \$45,200 \$13,500 for Challenge S Silicon Graphics (8nn) 8nn-7441 Reader Service No. 757



Easy **Upgrade** Path

If you don't want to spend the money for a dedicated Unix server or your Internet needs aren't too demanding, consider upgrading your current network. While add-on hardware and software solutions lack the horsepower of a stand-alone server, they will fill in the missing links, giving you the complete set of tools you'll need to deliver the Internet to your LAN users.

FIREFOX NOVIX FOR INTERNET

Networthy NetWare

Firefox offers a suite of Novix products, but the company's fastest and most direct route to the Internet lies with its Novix for Internet. The product installs as a NetWare Loadable Module (NLM), and includes the Novix Fire-Wall feature, which lets the network administrator control access to resources and even to specific sites on the Net itself. In fact, you have a choice of restricting access by individual user or workgroup, and you can name specific sites or entire domains within the restrictions. For example, you can prevent everyone on the LAN from using Mosaic to call up the Penthouse home page, or you can disallow access to everything in a particular domain (.org, .edu, .jp, and so on).

One of the advanced administrative features in Novix is the ability to monitor the time each user spends on the Internet, and the applications they're using to access it. This is an excellent feature for companies that need to bill for spe-



Tue Aug 0116:29:32 1995: Connection Closed - FTP - Clink-FTP - NW2_IP Tue Aug 0116:300411995: Mail Execution Initiated Tue Aug 0116:30051995: Mail Execution Succeeded Tue Aug 0116:31:39:1995: Meate Execution Succeeded Tue Aug 0116:32:051995: Meate Execution Succeeded

Novix for Internet is installed on either a Net-Ware server (Version 3.12 or later) or a multiprotocol router, and the hardware must be purchased separately. The TCP/IP stacks reside on the server rather than on individual

user machines, and users connect simply by logging in as an authorized NetWare client. This means that the rules governing NetWare access also govern Internet access, pro-

viding even further control of traffic and access. Installation itself is quite basic, and licensing applies to all concurrent users, so individual stations need not be licensed separately. Administering Novix is no different from administering NetWare itself. The software ships with several Internet applications,

including a Gopher client, an e-mail package, and a newsreader. Winsock support is included so you can install additional Winsock-compatible applications. Also included is NCSA Enhanced Mosaic from Spyglass for easy access to the Web. Packages such as Novell's LAN Workplace can easily be made available to users as well.

Novix offers several IP addressing options to the LAN administrator. An IP address is the set of numbers assigned to each user on the Internet. Each user or workgroup can be given an individual IP address, or the server itself can be assigned a single address to be shared by all users on the LAN. Dynamic IP addressing is available via IP address pooling, with IPs used as they're required. Combinations of these options are also available. Given the administrative nightmares possible in IP assignments, this feature alone is reason enough to go with Novix.

Novix for Internet

Pros: An excellent solution to the LAN-Internet connection issue, with full control at the NetWare server level.

Cons: Requires a NetWare server to run.

Verdict: Superb configurability for network administrators.

Firefox (800) 230-6090 Reader Service No. 758 PERFORMANCE TECHNOLOGY INSTANT INTERNET

Slow but **Powerful**

If your goal is to establish Internet access for your LAN without installing an NLM or establishing server-based TCP/IP, consider Performance Technology's Instant Internet. At just under \$3,500, the product ships as a small pizza box with three ports: one for power, another for the phone line, and a third for the LAN. Included in the box is a suite of Internet software, including full TCP/IP stacks; a Winsock link library for compatibility with thirdparty Internet software; and two freeware Windows Internet packages: Oualcomm's Eudora for e-mail and WinWeb for graphical Web browsing.



Instant Internet also includes a 28.8KBps modem for dial-up connections, which is good enough as a start, but you'll probably soon want to replace it with a router for higher speed and faster access. The box itself supports up to

50 concurrent users and data throughput speed to match your network.

Instant Internet offers several advantages. First, it can be placed anywhere on a NetWare or PowerLAN network, and you don't have to touch the LAN server to gain Internet access. The TCP/IP stack resides on the box, which means you don't have to (in fact, you can't) configure separate workstations with individ-

ual stacks. This makes configuration easy.

Instant Internet also offers strong security for your LAN, Incoming packets get to the Instant Internet box and nowhere else, because no other machine on the LAN has a TCP/IP installation. This is an excellent method for preserving LAN security. The product won't provide full Internet access for the largest NetWare systems, but for smaller departments and workgroups, a little may be adequate for your needs.

Instant Internet Pros: Lives up to its name. hooking smaller I ANs to the Net with ease. Offers excellent security

Cons: Won't work with larger LANs.

Verdict: Effortless setup makes this an excellent choice for small LANs.

\$3.495 for Ethernet version (800) 784-4638 Reader Service No. 750

COMPATIBLE SYSTEMS WORLDWIRE

Make a **Connection**

connection, WorldWire is

WorldWire offers a LAN-to-Internet solution that's different from both Novix and Instant Internet in several ways. The package is designed for compatibility with any Ethernet-based LAN and is built around a full-featured IP router. Rather than restrict the TCP/IP stacks to the NetWare server (as with Novix) or to a dedicated box (as with Instant Internet), WorldWire requires that all workstations have TCP/IP installed. WorldWire ships with Compatible Systems'

MicroRouter 900i, which is designed solely for LAN-to-Internet access. The router itself doesn't provide the Internet connection; instead, it offers a link between the LAN and your choice of Internet connection (modem. ISDN, or Switched 56 line), operating at speeds up to 128KBps. To help companies establish this sold through Internet providers called WorldWire Service Partners. The idea is this: You commit to a one-year sign-up with the service provider, and WorldWire waives the setup fee for your LAN's dial-up account (or provides equivalent credit for higher-speed access).

The WorldWire kit comes with a five-user license for the Spry Series of Internet applications. The Spry Series includes powerful offerings for Internet

e-mail, newsgroup reading and posting, Telnet, Gopher, and perhaps the best FTP client available for Windows. The Spry Series also provides Spry Mosaic, a thorough World Wide Web browser, and several other utilities. You'll need to spend more for a larger LAN, but a five-user license will get things started, WorldWire sells for \$1,695, although your net expense will depend largely on the kind of service you purchase from the Internet provider.

WorldWire

Pros: Comes with a high-quality router and

is easily expandable. Cons: Requires TCP/IP stacks on all workstations.

Verdict: A powerful solution but it takes considerable time and effort to install.

\$1,695 for 1 to 5 users Compatible Systems (800) 356-0283 Reader Service No. 760



Alternate Routes

These inexpensive solutions are the simplest way to get your users on the Internet. The representative offerings below provide either stand-alone software or subscription services that offer quick and easy access without requiring a hefty hardware commitment.

BERKELEY SOFTWARE DESIGN BSDI INTERNET SERVER

Portable Unix



If you're interested in using a spare PC to operate as a Univellect Internet server, consider the BSD Internet Server, from Berkeley Software Design, It installs on a 386 or higher (it needs its own hard disk partition but will dual boot with DOS), and effectively offers a substantial Unix environment. It supports a variety of Ethernet cards for LAN connectivity and several spare cards, which allow networks to communicate with high-speed lines for up to 'I'l-level Internet access. It's a potentially cost-effective solution—especially if you want to get your feet wet in a Durs server environment.

FILEBOX

BSDI Internet

Server
Pros: Uses Unix.
Cons: Difficult to configure.
Verdict: A cost-effective

Compromise.

\$995 for 1 to 16 users
Berkeley Software Design
(800) 800-4273
Reader Service No. 761

INTERNET JUNCTION PASSPORT

Works with **NetWare**



Internet Junction's Passport consists of a preconfigured pitzabox style enclosure with one port for your LAN and another for the wide-area network to which you're connecting. TCP/IP is handled at the router location, so there's no need to configure individual workstations, and the router offers firewall protection from the NetWare server. Passport supports Novell NetWare Version 3 and Version 4, and Internet connection speeds from 14.4KBps to 56KBps. The software provides a variety of log reports on Internet usage across the LAN.

FILEBOX

Passport

Pros: Good security.

Cons: Small LANs only.

Verdict: Easy to install.

offers internal IP addresses. \$595 for 5 users; \$1,195 for 10 users

\$595 for 5 users; \$1,195 for 10 users Internet Junction (415) 934-3600 Reader Service No. 762

PERFORMANCE SYSTEMS INSTANT LAN-DIAL

Dial In to the Internet



Care to test-drive the Internet from your LAN before committing to a permanent connection? Performance Systems International's Instant LAN-Dial isn't shipping yet, but it will combine a router, software to get you up and running within 30 minutes, and a full month of unlimited dial-up Internet access. You pay for the router and the software. A combination of Rockwell and Morning Star packages will Install with very leve decisions on the part of the administrator. The product is designed to get you to sign up with PSINet, but you can still decided to go with another service provider.

FILEBOX

Instant LAN-Dial

Pros: Cheap Internet access.

Cons: Expensive router.

Verdict: Excellent bundle.

\$1,000 to 1,500 for router; \$150/month for Internet connection Performance Systems Int'I (800) 827-7482 Reader Service No. 763 Drivers' Ed

CHAPTER 1:

the speed trap.



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Some think seek time or the latest host transfer buzzwords like Mode 4 PIO represent a drive's performance. In actuality, a drive's performance is the combination of media rates, buffer sizes and host rates, as well as seek and spin times. So it hardly matters how impressive a drive's individual speed specs are if the other factors hamper its overall performance.

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Get Wired Today

The decision to connect your LAN to the Internet revolves around the cost to install and administer the setup, both in funds and in human resources. This involves the usual trade-offs, since low cost goes hand in hand with less computing power. The priciest solutions—Sun Microsystems' Netra Internet servers, Digital Equipment Corp's Alpha servers, and Silicon Graphics' WebForce line—provide the greatest flexibility and expansion options. However, less expensive solutions such as Internet Junction's Passport and Performance Technology's Instant Internet also et the job done.

Among the high-end solutions for putting your LAN on the Internet, consider Digital Equipment Corp.'s Alpha systems if easy upgrades are a big priority. For first-rate World Wide Web servers, put Silicon Graphies' WebForce systems at the top of your agenda. If you want a lot of power in a package that easy to configure, Sun Microsystems' Netra Internet Server line is your most attractive option. If you have little interest in working with Unix or dedicated servers, consider Firefox's Novix for Internet, Performance Technology's Instant Internet, Compatible Systems' WorldWire, and Internet Junction's Passort. All are designed to get you onto the Internet with little hassle. Instant Internet and Passport are the easiest solutions to implement because they don't even touch your LAN server. Firefox's Novix is a good choice if you want to establish and maintain full traffic and access control. Novix software requires considerable Net-Ware resources, but it also provides a substantial degree of configurability and administrative control.

No matter which of the solutions you choose, remember that you'll need to consider more than the cost of the software and hardware included with these products. You also need an Internet provider, and you'll have to pay for setup costs, monthly fees, and additional hardware if you want high-speed connections. Putting your LAN on the Net might be getting easier, but it's still far from cheap.

DECISION MA	KER WHAT'S THE BEST	LAN-TO-INTERNET S	OLUTION FOR YOUR NEEDS?		
Choose the factor most important to you.	2 Choose the next most important factor.	3 What else is important?	For your needs, the best product to buy is		
	Conunity	Price	Novix for Internet		
Performance	Security	Usability	DEC Alpha family		
renonmance	Usability	Price	Netra Internet Server		
	USABIIITY	Web Authoring	WebForce		
	Performance	Price	Novix for Internet		
Coouritu	Performance	Usability	Instant Internet		
Security	Hambilita.	Price	Novix for Internet		
	Usability	Performance	Netra Internet Server		
	Security	Price	Instant Internet		
Hookilitu	Security	Performance	Netra Internet Server		
Usability	Performance	Price	Novic for Internet		
	renomiance	Security	Netra Internet Server		



REMOVE-IT NEVER FORGETS TO TAKE OUT THE TRASH.

Oops. You let your guard down and now your hard disk is a mess. And the old applications, fonts, and files littering

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safely, and thoroughly? Look no further: Remove-IT is the

ultimate custodian for your computer. IT'S A RROOM WITH A RRAIN

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But there's no trash bean that Remove-IT can't find. Its watchful Smart Disk Custodian automatically alerts you to unused or unneeded

programs, And Remove-IT has a unique Installation Knowledge-Base - a virtual

encyclopedia of more than 850 popular

LEAVES EVERY OTHER UNINSTALLER IN THE DUST Smart Disk Custodian Cleanup Coach Installation Knowledge-Base Windows 95 Upgrade Assistant

Emergency Recovery Disk

Automatic Installation Logging

Windows and DOS applications. Together with the Log-IT feature, it remembers the location of everything you install to ensure safe and complete removal. Remove-IT even makes selfinstalling backups so you can easily transfer your programs to other PCs.

SAFE SANITATION

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and applications when you "clean house." Remove-IT's helpful Cleanup Coach expertly guides you through the removal process, while its Safe Removal Technology protects you from deleting the wrong files. Remove-IT is more powerful and far more user-friendly than any competing program. It just works smarter - way smarter!

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Remove-IT has a customized Upgrade Assistant that automatically prepares your PC for Windows 95 and reduces the chance of an upgrade problem. Then it cleans and configures your system after

Windows 95 is installed. And even though Remove-IT is the most powerful cleaning machine you can buy, it won't clean out your pocketbook. We're now offering the latest version of Remove-IT-version 2.0-for

just \$44.95. Ask for Remove-IT at your favorite retailer, or call our handy tollfree number:

1-800-380-2607 Ask for ext. 108











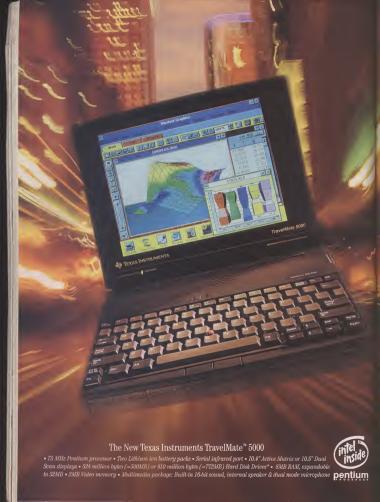












Introducing The First Notebook To Maximize The Pentium's Full Potential.

When the rush was on to introduce a notebook with a Pentium* processor, Texas Instruments decided to do what others thought couldn't be done.

We created a notebook that maximizes

Pentium performance by integrating full PCI bus architecture in our TravelMate 5000.

And for flexible connectivity, we designed a way to allow external access from the PCI bus to the latest peripherals.

It was a challenge we addressed for two simple reasons: to give users true desktop Pentium perfor-

mance for faster running software and expansion capabilities for investment protection.



So now you have a notebook with smoother full-motion video and enhanced 3-D graphics. In addition, we designed the TravelMate 5000 to take advantage of the "plug and play" capabilities of Windows 95° when it becomes available.

But our engineers didn't stop there.

We added a second lithium ion battery without sacrificing size, weight or eliminating a floppy drive.

In addition, wireless communication with other notebooks and desktops is very quick and easy with our integrated infrared capabilities.

The TI TravelMate 5000. For more information on what others thought you couldn't do with a notebook, simply call 1-800-TI-TEXAS (e-mail: 2ti@msg.ti.com).

EXTENDING YOUR REACH





Warranty may wary from country to country. Contact your local TI office for details Battemes and options are convect by a one year limited warranty. "Dispending to model. TravellMate and "Extending Note Beach" are indomants of Texas Instruments. Windows 86 is a registered trademant of the food (Corporations). Performing the artificiation of the food (is one is a registered trademant of intel Compositions. See 1886 TI.

Crossroads: The Voice

DSVD: Smooth Interaction

Digital simultaneous voice and data (DSVD) is a protocol for sending data and voice signals through special DSP-based moderns over analog phone lines. Voice and other data are combined into one signal. A small portion of the bandwidth, about 9KB, is set aside for voice, while the rest is used by the data portion of the stardwidth.

Pros

 Voice and data come through at the same time, resulting in a more natural exchange

Cons

- Some loss in audio quality (volume is reduced)
 Requires at least a V.34
- Requires at least a V.34 modem to operate

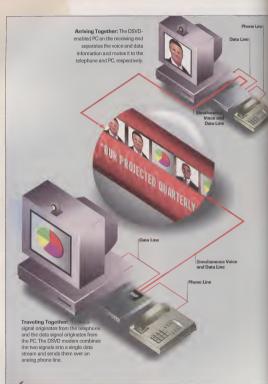
Timetable

Although U.S. Robotics has the only DSVD modem today, by the end of the year we'll see a proliferation of DSVD modems from other vendors. DSVD will prevail by mid-1996.

Opinion

"DSVD is the clear winner, not only for videoconferencing, but also for multimedia games."

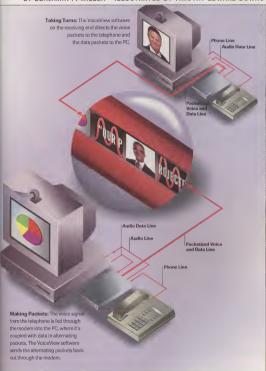
JIM WOLF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPERT, ZD LABS



DSVD: Simultaneous transmission will make a real-time difference.

and Data Dilemma

BY RENIAMINE MILLER . ILLUSTRATED BY TIMOTHY EDWARD DOWNS



VoiceView: Packetized transmission is an interim solution.

VoiceView: Choppy Connection

VoiceView is a protocol developed by Radish Communications to allow switching between voice and data transmissions over analog phone lines by packetizing and alternating the signals.

Pros

· Radish's protocol has been around for about two years, so it's built in to many modems and widely supported by existing telecommunications software

Cons

· Audio quality is poor (choppy) due to the packet-switching approach

Timetable

VoiceView will continue to have a presence for the next couple of years, but it will be overshadowed by DSVD.

Opinion

"VoiceView gained early acceptance, but because of the way DSVD handles voice and data simultaneously, it will be the clear winner over VoiceView as early as next year. But both VoiceView and DSVD will eventually be displaced by ISDNalthough not for at least three or four years."

ADAM MEYERSON TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Help: Working Smarter

Now That You Have Windows 95...

ake a deep breath, have the aspirin bottle ready, and dive in. Installing Windows 95 is not that scary, actually, but most sane people should be nervous when changing operating systems. To help you along, Microsoft has gone to a lot of trouble with the Windows 95 Setup routine. It's packed with wizards, and it practically runs itself, especially if you

install from a CD-ROM. But it doesn't get everything just right. Instead, you wind up with the PC equivalent of a rental car. Before you can expect to drive comfortably, you'll need to adjust the mirrors, push back the seat, and put down the top. If you're like us, you'll probably also want to disconnect the smog devices and turne the engine a bit.

We've identified 11 easy steps you can take as soon as Setup has finished. They'll make Windows 95 run a little faster, and they'll make your ride a little smoother.

1. Make Your Mark My Computer? My Network Neighborhood? Just who thought up these dopey names, anyway? Go ahead and change them to something more entertaining, informative, or just plain grown-up. Click once on the icon label to switch into edit mode. Type a new name, press Enter, and you're finished.

2. Keep Records 'There's something almost spooky about the way Windows 95's Plug-and-Play hardware detection works. Even if you don't have a Plug-and-Play BIOS or Plug-and-Play peripherals, Windows 95 does a decent job of tracking down resources and helping you resolve conflicts. In fact, this operating system may know more about what's inside your system than you do. Fortunately, there's an easy way to capture all of that information. Right-like on the My Computer

icon (or perhaps you've given it another, more clever name by this time...) and choose Properties from the pop-up menu. Click on the Device Manager tab.

The onscreen display is interesting enough. If you have a resource conflict or a disabled device, you can spot it here. But there's much more information buried under the display. Click on the Print button and choose System Summary for two pages of highlights covering IRQs, I/O ports, upper-memory usage, and DMA channels, Choose All Devices and System Summary from the Print dialog box. You'll get at least ten pages of detailed information about every device in your PC (including obscure motherboard devices), along with the precise name and version number of every driver in use. Print it out and file it away for a rainy day.

3. Use ScanDisk The Windows 95 iteration of ScanDisk is a fully graphical version of the disk utility that first appeared in MS-DOS 6. And this one also checks the integrity of long filenames.

If you want to fix disk glitches before they have a chance to corrupt your data, consider adding ScanDisk to your StartUp group. It's easy: First, right-click on the Start menu and choose Explore. Double-click on the Programs folder, then on the StartUp folder, Next, in the StartUp folder, right-click and choose Next, Shortcut from the pop-up menu. Finally, type-climhouses/seaks-wase /ai in the box.

From now on, every time you start up your computer, Windows will automatically run ScanDisk and correct any errors it finds. The /a parameter tells ScanDisk to check all local, nonremovable drives; you can include another switch, /n, to tell it to run in noninteractive mode.

4. Watch Your Resources Did you think your system resource problems would go away with the upgrade to Windows 95? They won't exactly. You're much less likely to crash into the brick wall of depleted system resources than you were under Windows 31, but it can happen. Fortunately, Windows 95 includes a very

EXPERT TIPS

A SETUP PRIMER FOR WINDOWS 95

Better Than Setup: If you haven't yet installed Windows 95, here's your chance to do it right. Follow these steps to prepare your system more efficiently than Windows 95's Setup routine does.

- Are You Ready? Check your system requirements. You'd better have a
 fast enough CPU (Microsoft says 386, but we say a 486 or Pentium) and
 at least 8MB of RAM. You need at least 44MB of available hard disk
 space, just for Windows 95. If you don't have it, think seriously about
 investing in a hardware uprade before you change operating systems.
- In visuality and include a Update Developed to an inject operating systems. Just in Case: Before you run Windows 95 Setup, create a directory called WiN31, WIN, OLD, or something similar, and use the XCOPYS command to copy your existing Windows 3.1 directory and all its subdirectories there. If you ever need to run Windows 3.1 you'll be able to use the dual-boot feature to boot to your old DOS, and run Windows from that directory.
- Old Standbys: Back up your DOS directory, Windows 95 deletes some older DOS utilities and replaces others with batch files. Even if you don't plan to go back, you might want those files someday. Play it safe.
- Clean Up: Last, but not least, run DEFRAG and an antivirus utility on the hard disk. The Windows 95 Setup program runs ScanDisk before the installation, but that's not nearly good enough.

Say, isn't it about time you did some weeding inside that hard drive of yours?



SNAPSHOT

AN EASY-TO-CONFIGURE SHORTCUT MENU

Make Your Own Send To: The items in the SendTo menu are simply shortcuts inside the SendTo folder under the Windows folder. To add items to this pop-up menu, just drag shortcuts to the SendTo folder. Then you can quickly open a file, even if it has an unassociated file extension.



It's This Simple: To add shortcuts to this folder and, consequently, to the SendTo menu, right-click within the Contents window and select New, Shortcut, Browse, then let the Shortcut Wizard do it for you. There's also a faster way. Right-click on and drag an icon from another folder to place a shortcut in this folder.



Your Own Menu: Right-click on the icon of the file you want to open, select SendTo, and send that file to any of the applications or drives listed in this menu.

slick resource monitor called Resource Meter (RSRCMTR.EXE in the Windows folder). Add it to your StartUp group.

The Windows 95 Resource Meter shows up as a gas gauge in the lower-right corner of the Taskbar. Let the mouse pointer hover over the gauge and a tool tip will appear, with a brief status report on all three resource heaps.

Most of the time, the gauge will be green. When it turns yellow, it's time to start shutting down apps. When it turns red, you'll be prone to crashes.

5. Create Shortcuts If you've ever used a Macintosh or a third-party Windows shell like Symantee's Norton Desktop or Central Point's PC Tools, you probably miss having instant access to the contents of every drive in your system via cons on the desktop. You can accomplish the same thing with Windows 95. Open My Computer, select all the drive icons by dragging a "frame" around them, and drag them onto the desktop. Windows 95 will create shortcuts to the originals, so you don't need to open My Computer every time you want to look for a file.

6. Be Prepared If your new PC came with Windows 95 preinstalled, you missed the Setup option that lets you create a Startup disk. No problem. Open the Control Panel and click on the tab labeled

Startup Disk. You'll create a bootable floppy that includes the diagnostic tools you need to recover from common problems: FDISK, FORMAT, SCANDISK, CHKDSK, ATTRIB, DEBUG, and even a version of EDIT that doesn't require QBasic. You also get a copy of the Windows 95 Registry Editor.

7. Optimize Windows 95 includes 23-bit drivers to manage virual memory, the Visual FAT (VFAT) file system, compressed disks (if any), and PC Card devices. But you can't be certain that all those 32-bit drivers have actually taken over from their Windows 3.1 precleoessors by removing their references from your startup files. To see for yourself, right-click on My Computer and choose Properties from the shortcut menu that pops up. Click on the Performance tab. Look for a brief status report on all of your 32-bit subsystems. If you see an error message here, it's time for a call to teel support.

You can't directly manage the 32-bit dynamic disk cache included in Windows 95, but you can fine-tune it. Click on the File System button to tell Windows how you plan to use this PC—as a desktop workstation, file server, or with a note-book docking station. In the same dialog box, verify that Windows 95 has correctly identified your CD-ROM drive, and adjust the amount of RAM dedicated to

the CD cache if necessary. Finally, if you detest the idea of write-behind caching, this is the place to turn it off. Look for the off switch on the Troubleshooting tab.

8. Customize Start When you upgrade from Windows 3.1, Windows 95 converts all your Program Manager groups to folders hanging off the Start menu. You can make life even easier with two simple changes. First, open an Explorer window



SMART CALCULATOR

Judy's TenKey Calculator Does the standard Windows Calculator leave you cold? Try Judy's TenKey Calculator, a shareware gem (only \$19.95 to register) that features a printable scrolling tape you can edit-type a new value on the tape and the sum changes! There's also a Tip of the Day. financial functions, and more. See page 352 for information on downloading 10KEY,ZIP from data library 1 (Windows Programs) on PC Contact-our forum on CompuServe-or from our Web page or ftp site.

and drag the executable files of your most frequently used programs directly onto the Start menu. Windows 95 lets you place shortcuts here, so you don't have to hassle with searching for them in clunky cascading menus. Next, right-click on the Start button, choose Explore, and reorganize the icons and folders into manaeable groups.

9. Configure for a Network Windows 95 is a first-rate network client, and most of the defaults will serve you just fine. But before you connect to a single server, ask yourself three questions:

Are you loading any unnecessary protocols? For example, if your office is wedded to NetWare and you never use Windows 95's peer-to-peer resource sharing, get rid of the NetBEUI protocol and just use IPX/SPX.

Are protocols being bound to unnecessary adapters? If you use Etheracards to connect to NetWare servers and you access the Internet over a dial-up connection, make sure that IPX/SPX is bound only to the network card and that TCP/IP is bound only to the Dial-Up Adapter. The Windows default would bind both protocols to both adapters, potentially degrading performance.

Are you set up to share? Windows 95 gives you achoice of two file- and printer-sharing services. The Microsoft flavor is quick and easy, but its security leaves a lot to be desired. How a Novell network in place, install the NetWare services. In essence, this opinot nurs a Windows 95 PC into a NetWare server, with access controlled by the user and a paword list on the workstation's NetWare log-in server. It's a slick and secure way to share printers and files.

10. Reconfigure the Recycle Bin By default, Windows 95 sets saide 10 percent of each hard disk as space for deleted fles. That can make for a rude surprise if you have a 1GB drive that's filling up rapidly. There's no feeling quite as exasperating as painstakingly deleting files so you can install a new program, only to discover that you still don't have enough room on the disk because the Recycle Bin is using all the free space.

To reset the options, right-click on the Recycle Bin and choose Properties. On a 512MB or larger hard drive, consider scaling the reserved space to 2 or 3 percent. If you hate the idea of the Recycle Bin, this is the place to turn it off completely (although

WHERE DID MY STARTUP FILES GO?

What's Missing? It's a strange feeling to realize that you can actually boot a Windows 95 system without AUTOSEC.BAT or CONFIG.SYS. The truth is, you don't need them unless you have to install a real-mode driver that an older piece of hardware (commonly referred to as legacy hardware) requires. WIN. NI and SYSTEM.NI are also mere shells of their former selves. But that doesn't mean there's nothing to tinker with in your PC's root directory.

Open a command prompt (from the Start menu, select Run, then type COMMAND), switch to the root directory, and issue the following command: ATTRIB-H-R-S MSDOS.SYS. The MSDOS.SYS file is not what you expect: What used to be an essential binary component of DOS is now a test file that controls Mindows 95 startup options.

Drag that file into an editor and add any of the following entries under the [OPTIONS] heading (this list is by no means complete). Don't forget to reset the hidden, read-only, and system attributes afterward!

Entry	Description Sets the nitial startup delay to n seconds. The only purpose for the delay is to give you sufficient time to press F8 after the Starting Windows message appears. The default is 2.				
BootDelay=n					
BootGUI=1	Enables automatic graphical interface startup. BootGUI=0 disables this setting				
BootKeys=1	Enables the special startup option keys (F5, F6, and F8). Setting this value to 0 prevents any startup keys from functioning. If you're a systems administrator, this setting lets you configure a more secure system.				
BootMenu=0	Makes the Windows 95 Startup menu appear by default.				
BootMenuDelay=n	Sets the number of seconds to display the Windows Startup menu before running the default menu item. The default is 30.				
BootMulti=1	Activates dual-boot feature. Setting this value to 1 lets you start MS-DOS by pressing F4. This option is disabled by default in Windows 95 and is not available when you press F8 to use the Startup menu unless the value is set to 1.				
Logo=1	Displays the animated logo. Setting this value to 0 turns off the animated logo.				
Network=0	Disables the Windows 95 network software components. Setting this value to 1 enables Safe Mode with Networking as a menu option.				

the icon will remain on the desktop).

11. Customize the Send To Menu When you right-click on most icons, the resulting shortcut menu includes a Send To option. Click on it and you can instantly transfer the file to a floppy drive, printer, or Windows 95 Briefcase, because those options are installed by default.

But here's where it gets better: If you often save files with strange, obscure extensions, you can't easily launch them by double-clicking on their icons because the extensions aren't associated with applications. Windows 95 lets you add applications to the SendTo menu, so you can

open any document with any application, as if they were associated. Use the SendTo folder under the Windows folder to configure your Send To options (see "An Easy-to-Configure Shortcut Menu," page 206). To add a shortcut to any program, right-click anywhere within the folder, select New, Shortcut, and click on the Browse button. Find the executable file for the application you want to add, and let the Shortcut Wizard insert a shortcut. Alternately, right-click on and drag any icon to this folder and select Create Shortcut(s) Here, Use the same method to create shortcuts to folders to which you often copy files. ED BOTT

Help working smarter: Do It Yourself

PLIT YOUR STARTWIZARD TEMPLATE TO WORK

The Making of a Word Wizard

ast month we left you duking it out with a three-ton spastic rhino (otherwise known as the Word for Windows StartWizard template). This month, we'll take the, uh, rhino by the horn and build a working Word for Windows Wizard that lets you create trifold brochures in no time. Before you go any further, download the file

BROCH_ZIP from data library 6 (Tips & Macros) on PC Contact (see page 352 for downloading instructions). Unzip the Wizard file BROCHUER_WIZ and put it in your Word for Windowstemplate subdirectory. Crata up Word for Windows, click on File, then New, and select the Brochure Wizard (see "1s It a Template or a Wizard"? below). Answer a few simple questions, and pooff the custom brochure unfolds before your very eyes (see "The Brochure Wizard in Action" page 209). Merlin incarrate. OK, now that you have your freelie, let's dissect this virtual rhus virtual rhus

For those of you who prefer to see how the magic trick works, start with last month's column ("Word Wizards Made (Relatively) Easy," July, page 194), then follow along here. It's all in WordBasic, so it can't be that hard, right.

Big Big Code As we point out in the July issue, the official method for constructing a Word for Windows Wizard, detailed on pages 201 to 211 in the first edition of the Word Developer's Kit (Microsoft Press, 1994), is akin to learning how to snowboard, in summer, with a three-ton spastic rhino strapped to your back. Last month we looked at the rhino-a skeleton for a Wizard called WizardSkeleton-that broke all previous records for the number of lines of code published in this magazine. Somehow PC Computing wedged it all in (thanks, gang!) so we could get down to the meat of the Wizard in this issue.

A few of you have written to complain about the sheer mind-numbing length of WizardSkeleton, and we don't blame you. The official method of constructing a Word for Windows Wizard is, to put it politely, convoluted. It isn't entirely the meta-Wizard creators' fault. Consider what they had to work with: a few hours with WordBasic's dynamic dialog boxes will leave your brain feeling like a desiccated six-month-old pretzel.

Many's the time we were tempted to chuck both the WizardSkeleton and Microsoft's official approach, and rewrite our Brochure Wizard in Visual Basic. Some day, when the OLE Automation link between Visual Basic and Word for Windows gets a little more stable, that may well be the smartest way to go.

But for now, we get to play with sequential dialog box code in an inherently event-driven dynamic dialog box world. Or, as Lee Hudsperh put int—tongue opartially in cheek—"With Wizards, if you can get it to work once, it's debugged." Lee should know. He's the coasthroof The Underground Guide to Microsoft Office. OLE, and VBA (Addison-Wesley, 1995).

The Wizard-specific shared variables have to be set up to hold data that we need for this particular Wizard. The InitGlobals variable has been modified to establish conversion factors—all the Brochure Wizard calculations are done in points—and common paper sizes.

State 1 through State 4 are simply the four faces painted on the Wizard's dialog box. (Last month we explained that a State is Microsoft's term for what amounts to a new dialog box, pasted over a shell containing the standard Wizard Cancel, ABack, Nexts, and Finish buttons, possibly with a little bit of window dressing.) As is so often the case with pretty pictures rendered by computer programs, these commands are mieht verbose.

About Those Variables The LbIUnith Text controls let us put inches, centimeters, or points in the appropriate places, a nifty trick accomplished by the code in the DisplayUnits routine.

EnableCustomPageWidth just ungrays the last line in the first State, to let the user type in a custom paper size.

Dowizard does all the real work: It creates and sets up the trifold brochure, using the specifications gathered by the Wizard, automatically calculating and formatting the size of the page and the width of columns, and sticking Word for Windows' (quote) fields at the top of each column to help the user figure out which page is first.

DoButtonClick has to be changed to recognize when you leave the first State, or (at the risk of speaking plain English)

SNAPSHOT

IS IT A TEMPLATE OR A WIZARD?



A Rose by Any Other Name: A Word Wizard is just a template, as you can tell by the fact that all your Wizards reside in the TEMPLATE directory alongside your Template files. And you launch them the same way-from the File, New menu, select a Wizard or Template. The difference is that a Wizard file is usually (but not always) more interactive than a Template file.

SNAPSHOT

THE BROCHURE WIZARD IN ACTION



a new file, the Brochure Wizard lets you choose your favorite units of measurement and paper size-even custom sizes.

on the brochure, and you know which page goes where, you can delete the page numbers.

after you push the Next> button for the first time. Upon leaving the first State, the Brochure Wizard runs DisplayUnits, which adjusts the units of measurement in subsequent States.

ItemFocusChanged is a fancy bit o' hacking that manipulates things behind the scenes while you're in the first State. If you select the Letter or Legal button, the Measurement Units box is automagically set to inches. Select A4 and it flips to centimeters.

Finally, SaveDialog and RstDialog use the WizardSkeleton's wrapper routines to save and restore settings, and simplify life for you. If you choose A4 paper with metric units this time, the next time you use the Brochure Wizard, it will offer to make a trifold brochure with A4 paper and metric units

Picture This You'll need to add three AutoText entries to make your dialog boxes . . . er. States . . . look as cool as the ones in our macro. (Word for Windows uses AutoText entries to draw pictures in dialog boxes.) The three pictures are called LinePic, a picture of a straight horizontal line, which (for reasons we can't begin to comprehend) isn't long enough to go all the way across the official Wizard's dialog box; FlagPic, the final picture of a racer's flag that seems to appear at the end of every Word for Windows Wizard; and a picture of a brochure (see "Interactive Template," above) which we've called, disingenuously, XXXX,

Here's how to hijack the artwork for LinePic and FlagPic: Start Word for Windows, click on File, then Templates, then Organizer, Next, select the AutoText file card, then open any WIZ file. Finally, copy LinePic and FlagPic from the WIZ file to NORMAL.DOT.

If you want to draw your own brochure called XXXX (sounds like the title of a Ravmond Chandler novel, eh?), it's easy to turn the picture into an AutoText entry. Simply copy your picture to the clipboard, start Word for Windows, and paste the picture into an empty document. Select the picture, click on Edit, then AutoText, Add, and type XXXX for the name. Make sure the Formatted Text button is checked

That's the Word for Windows Brochure Wizard. We hope that this dive into another bit of Word for Windows hell leaves you with a few conclusions. First, at this point anyway, there's no such thing as a uniform Wizard: Each application and each system has its own nuances. Second, the official Word for Windows way of doin' Wizards is only slightly more

pleasurable than passing a kidney stone. And third, if you really want to build a Word for Windows Wizard, you now know where to turn for a guided tour.

WOODY LEONHARD & VINCENT CHEN

WOODY and VINCE vow they will never. ever put a "real" Wizard in WOPR, their Word for Windows add-in. Drop the guys a line on PC Contact: Woody's at 72241.2125: Vince is at 72241.2221.

AN AUTOLAUNCH MACRO



Get Your Freebie Here: To get a copy of the WizardSkeleton template download BROCH.ZIP from data library 6 (Tips & Macros) on PC Contact (see page 352 for downloading instructions). Once you have Wizard Skeleton, you need to make it work in Word for Windows. This process isn't particularly difficult, but it does require a few steps.

Crank up Word for Windows. Use File, New, to create a new template. Save it with the name BROCHURE, DOT.

Click on Tools, then Macro, Make sure that the "Macros Available In:" list box shows BROCHURE.DOT. Type StartWizard in the Macro Name box, and click on Create. Delete everything you see, then copy in the entire WizardSkeleton macro.

Once again, click on Tools, then Macro, and make sure that "Macros Available In:" shows BROCHURE.DOT. Then type AutoNew, click on Create, and create an AutoNew macro that looks like this:

Sub MAIN StartWizard End Sub

Next, click on File, then Close. Yes, you want to save changes. Get out of Word for Windows entirely, open File Manager, and rename BROCHURE.DOT to BROCHURE.WIZ. Make sure BROCHURE.WIZ is in your \Word for Windows\template Subdirectory.

Help working smarter: Q&A RAM Disks · Spreadsheets · Hard Drives · Windows

OUR TECHNICAL EXPERTS RESPOND

Questions, Answers, and Tips

Tow safe is a RAM disk for holding your TEMP directory? Ever attempted to swap two hard disks and live to tell about it? Do you need a better default font in Windows Write? Have you ever plugged the power cord into the mouse port? Our technical experts answer these and other questions and share their favorite tips.

TEMP TO RAM

Question: I enjoyed your tip on pointing the TEMP variable to a RAM drive (Q&A, March, page 216). Under what circumstances would I not want to use a RAM disk as a TEMP drive?

VIA AMERICA ONLINE

Answer: There are two reasons to avoid setting the TEMP directory to RAM disks. First, some applications such as Microsoft's Word for Windows, Adobe's Photoshop, and Adobe's PageMaker create huge temporary files (as does Print Manager). If the size of the TEMP file exceeds the RAM disk capacity, polite applications will let you know you're out of room. But some apps will cause general protection faults instead. Even in the best circumstances, you'd thave to save your work, exit Windows, and reconfigure your RAM drive.

Second, in the event of an application crash, the temporary file in the TEMP directory may contain a usable backup of data not saved to disk. After a crash you can count on recovering about 50 percent of "lost" data files if you have a TEMP directory on your hard disk, but "RAM-based TEMP directories will be wiped out for good. NN

CLEAR ALL IN EXCEL

Question: I can clear the formulas in a range in Microsoft's Excel by selecting the range and dragging the fill handle back across it. As I drag, the area becomes fuzzy; when I release the mouse, the area is cleared. This is the equivalent of choosing Edit, Clear, Formulas. Is there a way to do the equivalent of Edit, Clear, All?

STEVE JONES BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Answer: Use the same technique as described above but hold the Ctrl key as you drag the fill handle. Release the mouse before you release the Ctrl key. SD

SECONDS COUNT IN EXCEL

Question: I often develop applications for companies that download scientific data from various measurement systems into spreadsbeets for analysis. In some cases the downloaded information includes times that are recorded in minutes, seconds, and hundredbs of seconds in the format massib. Using Microsoft's Excel, I want to add these times and produce a sum in the same format.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Answer: Suppose the time values are in the range A1:A25, and a value of 1 minute, 15 seconds, 12 one-hundredths of a second is entered as 1.1512. In Excel, you can sum these values using the following array formula:

{=SUM(INT(AI > :A25))+INT(SUM(MOD(AI: >

GA25,1)/0.6))+MOD(SUM(MOD) G(A 1:A25,1))IO.6,1)* 0.6)

To enter the array formula, type it and then hold the Shift and Ctrl keys

HOT TIP

MUSICAL LOTUS NOTES

Problem: You want Lotus Notes to notify you of incoming mail with something other than its standard five-tone melody.

Solution: If your system is set up to play other sound files (which usually means you have a sound card and Windows sound drivers installed). Notes can play any tune you want. First, make sure that Notes is set up to notify you of incoming mail: Run Tools, Setup, Main, and make sure that the Check for Incoming Mail box is checked and that there's a value in the box after it. Next. open your NOTES.INI file (it probably lives in your NOTES directory) and add the following line:

The c:\windows\tada.wav is the tune Notes will play. If you want a different one, just supply the path to it.

JOHN MONTGOMERY SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA

as you hit the Enter key. Note: Don't type the opening and closing curly braces—Excel will add them. SD

CUSTOMIZING WINDOWS WRITE

Question: Is there a vary to set the default font that appears in Windows Write to something other than what appears to be the lowest alphabetical True Type font listed in my WIN.INI? Before I moved Arial back up to the beginning of the [Fonts] section of WIN.INI. the default vass "Circled Numbers," which really created havoc: I'd rather not open a file and have odd-looking symbols staring me in the face.

Les Braun Edmond, Oklahoma

Answer: Here's a trick that you can use to make Write pop up with any options you like-special headers, footers, fonts, or formatting, First, run Write and set up your document. To make the desired fonts "take" without entering any text: Enter a space, select it, select Character, Fonts, and pick the appropriate font, size, weight, and other details. Then save the document as WRITE.WRI and exit Write, Switch to File Manager and find WRITE.WRI in the Windows directory. Press Alt and double-click on the file to bring up its Attributes box. Type Better Write or whatever label you prefer in the Description box, and click on the Read Only box to put a checkmark in it. Then click on OK. Next, drag WRITE.WRI into a Program Manager group.

The icon that this creates is indistinguishable from your regular Write icon, but instead of merely launching Write, it opens a formatted Write document that you can't overwrite. (You can save it with a different filename.) ML.

WATCH THAT PIN, JACK

Question: I plugged the power cord into the mouse port of my notebook computer. I immediately realized my mistake when the indicator lights began to flicker: Amazingka powere, system damage occurred; bowever, I was left without the ability to recharge the computer's battery, baving broken off the "system in use pin." My simple solution works, but I wonder if it's the best one available:

First, turn off the power and unplug the battery. Take a stickpin with a flat metal bead; it may need trimming so that the head is flush with the plastic. Insert it into the port hole that corresponds with the missing pin. I'ry stickpins of varying diameters until you achieve a sing

fit. Do not put the stickpin into the buyes as direct replacement for the broken pin. Place the stickpin into the correct receptacle in the port as a surrogate for the broken pin. When the plat is placed in the port, the head of the stickpin makes contact with the broken stuch. The charge light should come on, although you may need to wagel it slightly and apply some pressure. You have now created a solution to this and other broken-pin fiasones.

STEPHEN KENT VIA THE INTERNET

Answer: We don't like to argue with success, but there's one good reason not to follow your temporary repair procedure: You could easily get the pin stuck in the jack. For example, if the pin is a tight fit and you press it in too far, you might not be able to pull it out (even with needlenosed pliers). And then you won't be able to plug the charger into the jack even if you replace the original plug on the charger. You'll likely need to send the whole thing to a repair shop to get the jack replaced. which can be expensive. We've also found that intermittent contact can sometimes confuse a charger and result in overcharging, which will severely shorten the life of your battery.

The only real solution is to replace the connector on the end of the charger cable, a relatively inexpensive repair that avoids doing further damage to your system. WLR

MASTER A SECOND HARD DRIVE

Question: Is there some way that I can use my original Maxtor 7126 OA as the D: drive in my 33MHz 386? The current C: drive is a Maxtor 7546 installed to replace the original drive, which was maxed out. The salesperson said I could do this, and the BIOS has the capability, but the system sometimes refuses to boot with both drives installed. I checked with Maxtor: The jumpers are set correctly to make the original drive the slave, but Maxtor strongly recommends against using both

HOT TIP WIN DOOM II

Problem: You've reached level 30 in Doom II: Hell on Earth, but can't win the darn game

Solution: There's a special set of steps you must follow in order to win. First, go to the top of the oversized stairs and throw the switch. That causes the column in front of the goat face to rise. Go down to that column and, once the column has risen fully, hit the space bar to lower it. Step onto the platform. As it rises, fire rockets into the exposed brain of the goat. The rockets will destroy the evil being's brain and they out! Wein.

HANK LAWLER COLUMBUS, OHIO

drives, because the new one is much faster and boot-up problems might occur.

> HELENA FOWLER NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Answer: There is a way, but it's not particularly cost-effective. Get a new IDE host adapter with a built-in BIOS, the kind designed for installing two extra drives (a total of four IDE drives) in a PC. Use your fast new Maxtor as the boot disk, jumpered as the master and plugged in to your old host adapter or motherboard. Attach your old drive, also jumpered as a master, to the new host adapter. The BIOS of the host adapter should isolate the drive timing problems. A better solution would be to follow Maxtor's advice and not use the older. slower drive. Instead of buying a new host adapter, we suggest you apply those dollars to the price of a second hard drive, WLR

Compiled and edited by James Oliver Cury. Technical assistance provided by Shane Devonshire, Matthew Lake, Yael Li-Ron, Noel Nyman, and Winn L. Rosch. CUSTOMIZE LOTUS ORGANIZER 2.0

Supercharge Your Personal Information Manager

Uniquely Personal Our schedules are like our fingerprints: At first glance, they all look alike. Delve a little deeper and you'll find that no two people organize their work schedules in exactly the same way.

Lotus knows this, which is why it made its personal information manager (PIM). Organizer 2.0, so customizable. That's why you own it. (Well, OK, that and the fact that it has the cutest interface this side of Redmond.) But Organizer 2.0's simplicity goes beyond a right-click here and an easy button-click there. Let's say you're the type who just wants to clear everything off the screen-an urge we all get from time to time. With the proper key combination, you can hide all the toolbars and menus, or even remove them for good if you want. If you're obsessed with aesthetics, rearrange or recolor the elements. Your choice. That's handy customizability, and it gives you the breathing room to really dive into a makeover.

You can consolidate different sections of your PIM, and link specific applications or files with appointments. Sounds like a high-end feature, but it requires only minor navigation through a dialog box or two.

Your Way The best way to use a PIM is to incorporate your work habits and organization skills into it. Don't limit yourself to the defaults set by the developers. This is, after all, the most personal of all your applications.

RYLA K. CARLSON

GUIDED TOUR

BRING OUT THE PERSONAL IN YOUR PIM



Choose Your Weapons: Click on the Customize icon, then add or remove Organizer's modules. Each module gets an onscreen tab, such as the Calendar, To Do list, and so on.



Clean House: When your schedule is packed, you need all the room you can find. Press F11 to get a clean screen view, free of menus and toolbars. To get your menus back, click on the icon at the bottom of the screen or press F11 again.



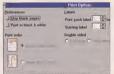
Lock and Key: When curious colleagues abound, you may want to keep your schedule confidential. To set up password protection, press Ctrl-U, or select File, Organizer Preferences, User Access, and choose the level of security you require.



What to Do: Enforce order on To Do lists! From the To Do Preferences dialog box, choose your viewing options by Priority, Status, Start date, or Category.



Missing Links? Link files to your appointments—perhaps a spreadsheet to a budget meeting. After you create an appointment, choose Create, File Link, then enter a description, type the filename you want to link to, and click on OK. A link icon will appear.



Print the Results: Use Organizer's print toptions to take your schedule with you on the road. You can set it to avoid annoying blank page printouts. Or chose a Print order to list contacts down the page or left to right on a label sheet, for example. In the Print dialog box, choose Options and set your perferences now—don't waste paper.

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SPEC WATCH

Scanners

From Paper to Screen:

Perhaps you need an OCR solution to change printed text into editable files. Or maybe you need to import graphics into an image-



ı luck: rdable.

editing program. Either way, you're in luck: Flatbed scanners are finally becoming affordable. Technical Director Adam Meyerson discusses usability features, and why you should spend extra to get a high-resolution scanner. Spec Watch Before your next hardware investment, check out

our recommended specs: Desktop Systems218

Disk Drives218

Ink Jet Printers219

Laser Printers219

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AFFORDABLE AND COLORFUL

Flatbed Scanners: Looking Sharp

et's face it, no one likes to type. So the next time someone hands you a stack of paper for database entry or word processing, don't type it—scan it. A high-quality scanner coupled with accurate OCR software will leave even your fastest typist in the dust. And if you buy smart, your new scanner will be as easy to use

as the office photocopier, if not easier.

Prices for flatbed scanners have dropped almost as fast as the Mexican peso, with color scanners inching to within \$300 of grayscale scanners. If you want to scan photos, logos, or color images, it's worthwhile to spend the extra money. A topquality color scanner should cost no more than \$1,100.

Cost aside, key issues include resolution, OCR, color depth, compatibility, performance, and usability. For scanning text and performing OCR, look for a minimum of 300-dpi optical resolution. That's the effective resolution of the scanner hardware. But the real key to accurate OCR lies in the software. Our tests show that scanners coupled with Caere's OmniPage Direct OCR software consistently turn in the most accurate OCR. The average OCR-based scanner (with bundled OCR software) costs around \$850.

The next thing to consider is software for interpolating resolution—the process that cleans up the scanned image and improves its resolution. Expect interpolated resolution of at least 1,200 dpi, which dramatically improves the look of graphics, images, and photographs. Also look for 24-bit color. To take advantage of all the excellent software that's available, your scanner must come with an industry-standard TWAIN driver. This will let you use your scanner from within a variety of applications within a variety of applications.

Scanners should also offer two modes: single-pass and triple-pass Single-pass as tunned for speed, while triple-pass produce better quality. And look for usability features such as autoscanning, calibration, and automatic image adjustment to make your scanner much easier to use. Also check for brightness and contrast controls. And, if you're going to scan multipage documents, get an automatic sheet feeder. Let you're scanner do the work for you, so you can move on to more important tasks.

ADAM MEYERSON

SCANNERS

COLOR OR GRAYSCALE, LOOK FOR TWAIN COMPLIANCE



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DESKTOP SYSTEMS

GET MORE RAM FOR FASTER PERFORMANCE



USABILITY

- A BIOS: Flash BIOS for easy upgrade. plug and play BIOS.
- B. Case: Tool-free cover
- C. CPU: ZIF CPU socket. O. RAM: Easy access to SIMMs. E. Hard Drive: Enhanced IDE.

FEATURES

1. Cache: 256K. 2. RAM: Expandable to 64MB.

- 3. Monitor: 17-inch 4. Monitor: 21-inch
- 5. Video: 64-bit VL-bus or PCI accelerator with 2MB of RAM. 6. Video: 64-hit VI-bus or PCI
- annelerator with AMR of RAM 7. Hard Orive: Enhanced IDE
- 8. Sound: 16-bit (Sound Blaster compatible).
- 9. CO-ROM: Quad-speed Enhanced IDE or SCSI drive.
- 10. Slots: Three PCI or VL slots. 11. Ports: Two serial, one

DECISION MAKER

Text & Numbers

What's more

Word Processing

& E-mail

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& Databases

3 This is a minut 66MHz 4860X2.

8MR of RAM

75MHz Pentium

500MB Hard Oisk

16MB of RAM.

Look for these features... Usability: A. B. C. D. E

340MB Hard Oisk Features: 5, 7, 8, 9, 15-Inch Monitor

Usability: A. B. C. D. E. Features: 1 2 4 6 7

15-Inch Monitor 8. 9. 10. 11 75MHz Pentium. Usability: A. B. C. D. E.

CAD. 3-0 Rendering &

Image Editing

500MB Hard Disk. CO-ROM Orive

16MB of RAM. Features: 1, 2, 3, 6, 7

RAM, 1GB Hard Dis

Usability: A. B. C. D. E. Features: 1 4 6 7 8

DISK DRIVES

CHOOSE SCSI FOR YOUR MASS STORAGE NEEDS

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IISARII ITY

- A. Documentation: Includes a clear jumper-setting diagram
- B. Diagnostic Software:
- C. Partitioning Software:
- O. Power Management: Included.

FEATURES

- 1. Cache or Buffer: 256K or larger.
- 2. Access Time: 13ms or faster (if measured as seek time. 10ms or faster)
- 3. Interface: Enhanced IDE. 4. Interface: Wide or Fast
- 5. Warranty: Three years, all parts and labor.
- 6. Warranty: Five years, all parts and labor.
- 7. Extra: RAID-capable.

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In which Windows

Windows NT

& DS/2

3 This is a minimum 500MR Enhanced INF

Enhanced IDE

Look for these

Usability: A. D. Features: 2, 3, 5

Usability: A. B. D -

Features: 1, 2, 4, 6

Usability: A. B. G. D.

1GB SCSI-2 Features:

More Than 20

Usability: A. B. C. D

INK JET PRINTERS

GET NEAR-LASER QUALITY AT HALF THE PRICE



HSARILITY-

- A. Paper Tray: Multipage sheet feeder
- B. Paper Tray: Envelope option. C. Software: Color advisor software

FEATURES:

- 1. Fonts: 25 internal. 10 TrueTyne
- 2. Printer Language: PCL 5 built in with PostScript Level 2 ontion
- 3. Cartridges: Separate black ink cartridge. 4. Consumables: Able to
- print on transparencies. glossy paper
- 5. Interface: Network ontion. 6. RAM: Expandable to 24MB.

DECISION MAKER Look for these 2 Primary types of documents? Usability: A. B. 4 ppm to 6 ppm. Simple Text 512K to 1MB of RAM 300 dni Features: 1.2 Black & White 4 ppm to 6 ppm. Complex Text. Usability: A. B. 4MB of RAM Charts & Expandable to Graphics Features: 1, 2, 4, 5 8MB, 600 dpi 1 to 2 Minutes Usability: A. B. E. per Page, 512K to 2MB of RAM 300 dni Color 2 Minutes yes Usability: A. B. C. Full-Page Page, SMB of RAN Color

LASER PRINTERS

LOOK FOR SPEEDS OF 4 TO 8 PAGES PER MINUTE AND PCL 5



HISABILITY

- A. Emulation Switching: Automatic, all ports active.
- B. Paper Tray: 200-sheet or larger with envelope feed.
- C. Cartridges: One or more HP-compatible slots.
- D. Footprint: 260 square ches or smaller. E. RAM: User-upgradable
- memory and interface. F. Power Management: Automatic sleep mode or EPA
- Energy Star compliance. G. Display: LED panel or

- software utility for paper
- FEATURES 1. Fonts: 35 or more resident
- (at least 10 TrueTyne).
- 4. Interface: Bidirectional
- parallel interface.
- 6. RAM: 4MB or more

Laden

- (at least 10 TrueType). 2. Fonts: 45 or more resident
- 3. Printer Language: PCI 5 emulation.
- 5. RAM: 2MB.
- 7. CPU: RISC.

DECISION MAKER

What will you use it for? How many pages a day?

20 or Fewer Text & Pages

Simple Business Graphics

or Higher

More Than 8 nnm PCI 5 20 Pages

300 dpi or Higher

4 ppm to 6 ppm, PostScript, 600 doi

Pages Graphics-Documents

More Than 8 arm, PostSmiol 20 Pages

3 This is a minimal configuration configuration.

4 ppm to 6 ppm.

PCL 5, 300 dni

23MR 600 dni

Look for these features ...

Usability: C. D. E. F. G. Features: 1, 4, 5, 7

Usability: B. C. D. E. F. G Features: 1, 4, 5, 7

Usability: A, T. O, F. a. O.

Usability: 7.6, C. O. F. F.

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	Ascentia 910N 486/75 8/510M8 10 4' Active3599	HL-645 6ppm 300dpi 434	6XI Internal 6X CD RDM NEW!454	Accura 14.48 Data/Fax Int
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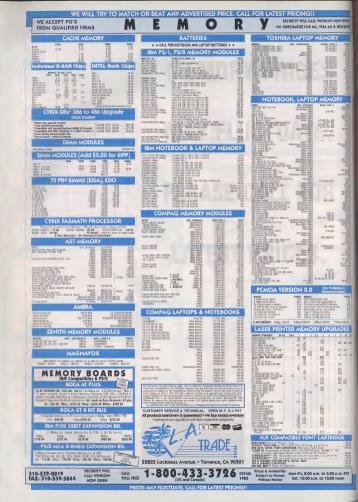
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Mr. Boddy has been Millefered, and his Liller verpatus at large. Blile semestine to day before the scheduled SiGO pur. reading of Mr. Boddy's last Will and Gestament, the Vourderer Wil Angunge the document to read in his or here tavor.

Unior time to Boddy's Close of 1 iving relative, Mr. Green, is out of town on business and was not inforted of his COUSIN S death. But those who have gothered at the Boddy 1 2015 ion for the reading include Mrs. Peacock, his eccentlete Steler-tr-law; Colonel Mustard, and discrept buddy; Professor Plum, a dear friend and classinate diretts his days at Vale; the SCA Classes a "special friend"; and Mrs. While, his loyal servant of 25 years.

Please help in that Che killer by determining who dranged the will... where... and with what...

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7.45 p.m. and tensions are bigh. The anticipated reading of the will is only minutes away. But with so many unique personalities in one room....MidWest Micro's SoundBook II should feel right at lower.

When the main course is nurder, people tend to lose their appetite—but they still langer for convenience. And third where the NFBY SoudBook II convenience Tenturing a programmable Personal TouchPad, two RAM compartments and a modular design, this MidWest Micro Notebook is dressed to fall. So before we interrogulae the offer suspects at the table, let's investigate the SoundBook II.

Powerful Features... Weak Alibi

Who branes where this portable was on the night in question? Weighing only 6 lbs., it could have gone anyuchere? Some eyewinesses claim they saw the SoundBook II with a built in floppy drive at 6.37 pm. While another source swears the same drive buy was carrying an AC adapter at precisely 6.40 What makes the SoundBook II such a master of disguise?—It uses special compact peripherals, A.K.A. Personality Modules, that fit its modular 3.5° drive buy Enjoy the floppy drive and AC adapter modules that come with your SoundBook II. And feel free to order additional modules like a 3.5° CD-BOM drive, a 14.4 Kbps voicemal fax modern, an extra hard drive and an extra battery.

Evidence Stacked In Your Favor

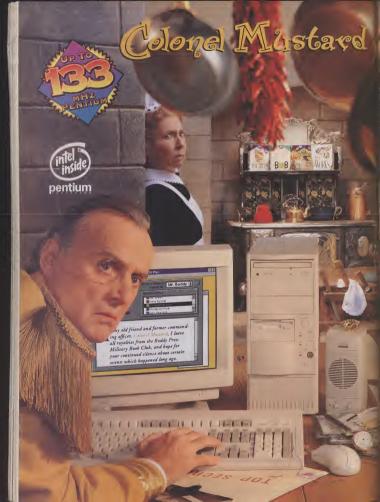
If speed is your motive, you may want to check out MidWest Micro's Pentium® Processor Based SoundBook Plus. Like the SoundBook II, it comes with 10-bit stereo andion and hultin speakers. But this SoundBook also features a 75 MHz or 90 MHz Intel® Pentium Processor. And if you think Phart sounds like a setup, get a load of The Real Warranty. It covers all MidWest Micro Notebooks for a full three year sentence—parts and hard labor included! We can only assume that Mr. Boddy (being of sound mind) would have loved both MidWest Micro SoundBooks.

Contributing To The Delinquency Of A Diner?
Although its unlikely that these MidWest Micro Noebooks are capable of
murder, they may be found guilly of adding and altering, in fact, one of these
guests may have already used a SoundBook to change Mr. Boddy's will...
Perhaps Mrs. Peacock is doing it right mout—Or maybe she's just playing
a little Microsoft 96 Gif.

Since we have a little time before Mr. Boddy's lauyer arrives, let's reconstruct another way this beinous crime may have been committed...







In The Littlen With A Midwest Micro RC?

"It's darn fast and darn cheap"

_PC Computing, April 1995

"The Elite P5-90 is one of the fastest computers we've tested."

_PC World, January 1995

"I can't believe these people didn't put lunch on the titnerary," the Colonel grumbled. "And you would think a person with bits much move yould afford better lunch meat." Was it merely bunger pains that brought Colonel Mustard into the kitchen this aftermoon? Or was it Mr. Boddy's MidWest Micro Home PC... and revengel...

Mustard hadn't fouched a computer since his code cracking days in the Middle East. But this "MidWest Micro Home PC" looked nothing like Inbar tell; Typing in the secret password with his one good hand, the Colonel checked his watch again. He knew exactly how long it would take the IntelDX4" 100 Processor to find the will, make the changes and save them on the Home PCs 850 Mb hard drive. "Not Hoody long at all," he said with a smirk.

Colone Mustard had planned his strategy very carefully. And after reading six computer magazines cover-to-cover, he learned that MidWest Micro Desktop Systems are available with Intel-180° and Pentitum® Processors, double- and quad-speed CD-ROM drives, voicemall fax modens and hard drive capacities up to 1.6 GM and whether you order a multimedia-packed flome PC or an office pC stocked with powerful business software, you should always expect an ambush of high performance. But even nine weeks at boot camp, two wars and a Purple Heart didn't preper the Colonel for what he was about to witness. . .

Opening the Home PCs Microsoft® Family Bundle, Mustard found an arsenal of interactive O-BOM software—Encarta® 95, Works, Money, Scenes, Dangerous Creatures and Golf were his to conquere Before he knew it, the 15" color serous forces had exploded into multimedia mutiny. And he was even more impressed with Microsoft Bob". Featuring eight household management programs in one efficient package, this new recruit had all the madisno of a great soldier.

By this time the Colonel was distracted from his original covert operation. So he set a course for the library to see what Mr. Boddys 120 MHz Office PC had to offer... Who hilled Mr. Boddy and changed bis will? The rest of the investigation is up to you...

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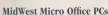
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- Built-in 16-bit sound, microphone & speaker ■ Upgradable hard drive - easily add

	more storage			
I	Processor	Screen	HD	Price
	4860X4/75	9.5" Dual Scan	250M8	\$2369
	4860X4/75	9.5" Dual Scan	340M8	2459
	486DX4/75	9.5" Active	340M8	2739
	4860X4/75	9.5" Active	540M8	3029
	486DX4/75	9.5" High Res.	540M8	3199
	4860X4/100	9.5" Active	340M8	3399
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486DX2/50	9.5" Active	540M8	2649	
4860X4/75	9.5" Active	340M8	2549	
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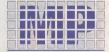
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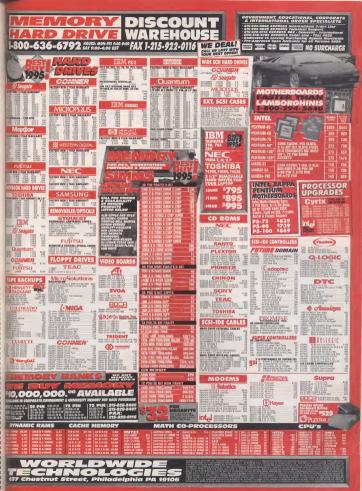
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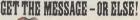
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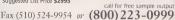
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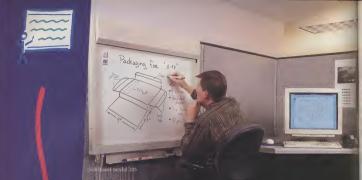
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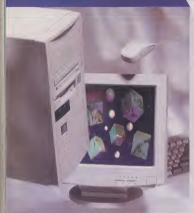
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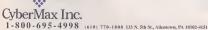
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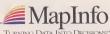
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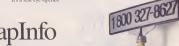
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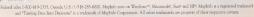
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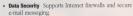
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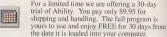
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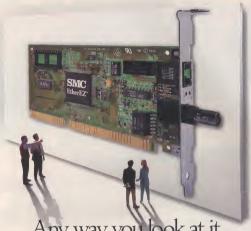
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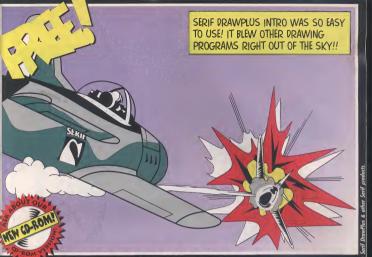
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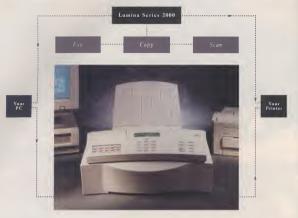












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3.1 WINDOWS 95

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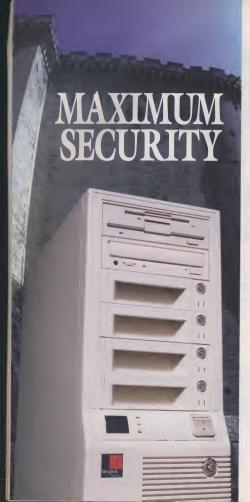
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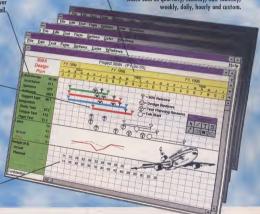
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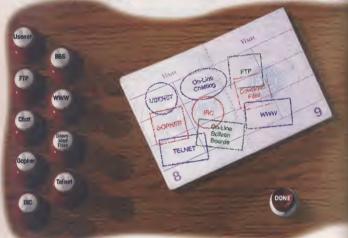
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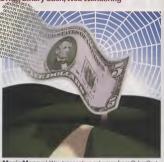
DIGITAL DOLLARS

The Check's On the Web

Throughout much of history, bartering was the rule of the day. But if no one wanted what you had to trade, you were out of luck. Then came currency, and a common medium of exchange was born. But no sooner could you say, "Check, please," and cash was supplanted by personal checks, automatic teller machine cards. debit cards, and credit cards. The next target of the money evolution? The I-Way. Several firms, including CyberCash and DigiCash, have developed I-Way transaction solutions to spark online commerce. CyberCash (http://www

.cvbercash.com) uses authentication technology and key encryption from RSA Data Security to provide a secure environment for financial dealings among consumers, merchants, and banks.

Wells Fargo Bank, among others, has selected CyberCash



Magic Money: I-Way transaction schemes from CyberCash and DigiCash are helping to move online commerce forward.

to develop secure online banking, and the U.S. Department of Commerce recently granted the company permission to export its encryption technology.

DigiCash (http://www.digi cash.com) takes an approach that's similar to CyberCash. but it has a greater emphasis on anonymity. Like Cyber-Cash, DigiCash's e-cash uses key encryption technology from RSA Data Security. However, e-cash actually stores digital money-signed by a bank-on the user's desktop. And e-cash can be spent at any online shop that will accept it, including vendors such as Britannica Online (http://www-li.eb.com/).

You can download a copy of e-cash from the DigiCash home page and receive 100 Cyberbucks (play money for the trial period), or you can send e-mail to e-cash-feedback @digicash.com.

ONE-MINUTE GUIDE

Netscape Navigator's Top Secrets

The most popular Web browser is free for noncommercial use. If you're not browsing the Internet's World Wide Web with Netscape's Navigator 1.1, give it a whirl---ftp.mcom.com or (800) 638-7483. If you are using it, here are 60 seconds worth of tips and tricks.

THE MYSTERIOUS N LOGO This is actually a live HTML link. Click on it and you'll go directly to the Netscape Communications home page.

SIGN ME UP Add your ASCII signature file by adding the following to your NETSCAPE.INI file (under User); sig file+<.....path to your e-mail sig file....>. Your signature will be automatically appended to outgoing e-mail but not to newsgroup postings.

EASY SHORTCUTS Typical keyboard shortcuts include the standard Ctrl-P. Ctrl-C, Ctrl-V, and Ctrl-X (for Print, Copy, Paste, and Cut, respectively). accessible from pull-down menus.

Also check out backspace and the space bar, which operate as Page Up and Page Down, respectively.

BOOKMARK BASICS Turn your bookmark list into a local Web page and make your favorite InSites easier to access. Go to Options, Preferences. Styles. For your default home page, enter: file:/C:/netscape/bookmark.htm (where netscape is the path, and bookmark.htm is the name of your bookmark file).

Free Stuff!



Matthew Lake: The best things online are free

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QOOOO Head of your class. **QOOO** Sit next to your best friend. **QOO** Sit at a wobbly desk. OO Sit next to Bernie the Human Dingleberry. O Sit down and shut up!

CD-RONWhite

stumble upon them like a blindfolded archeologist roaming through ruins. The information on this disc is good, and the screens are darkly mysterious, Still, I could go for less mystery and more ease. This interface isn't going to change the way good CDs are created

Ideas That Changed the World / Cambrix Publishing / (800) 992-8781, (818) 992-8484 / \$30 est. street price / Reader Service No. 714



Ready, class? What does the word buxon mean? Pencils down. If vou answered "Dolly Parton," go to the rear of the class and put WordSmart in your CD-ROM drive. It teaches you the meaning of buxom and other wordswith pronunciations-and offers a bunch of tests and exercises best suited for a bright junior-high student. The trouble is that there are only 220 words defined on this Windows CD, and if you've already mastered the jargon of computers, chances are that you're educated enough to know them. You can get other WordSmart volumes, but there's enough space left on this disc for at least three times as many words. Come on, this is a CD! We're talking mass quantities of storage here, not some single-density 5.25-inch floppy. Fill it up. and then we'll talk!

WordSmart / Smartek Software / (800) 858-9673. (619) 456-5064 / \$50 est. street price / Reader Service No. 715



DECIDE FOR SURE O

Well, gee, I really can't make up my mind about this CD-ROM title. I mean, on the one hand . . . but then on the other hand

No, not really. Just kidding around. I know exactly what I think about this selfhelp decisiveness seminar. It's a bowser. The problem is that there's not much substance to it. It's little more than a fancy overhead slide show on CD-ROM. The advice it contains is fine. But it's not substantial enough to justify devoting an entire CD-ROM to it. You can pick up some useful pointers, but at the end of the day, you're left hungry for some beef.

Decide for Sure / Wilson Learning Corp. / (800) 247-7332, (812) 944-2880 / \$35 est. street price / Reader Service No. 716



Handful of Crumbs: Not all screen savers and calendars are eye candy.



R. CRUMB SCREENSAVER AND COMPANION OOOO

Did you leave your heart in the seventies? Do Mr. Natural, Fritz the Cat, and the cartoon women of R. Crumb still infect your dreams? Get this: screen savers, calendars, and stationery graced with drawings and animations from one of the people who defined the hippie generation.

R. Crumb Screensaver and Companion / Byron Preiss Multimedia / (800) 482-3766, (818) 295-6600 / \$50 est. street price / Reader Service No. 717



D 70NF 0000 D ZONE 2 0000

School's out! It's time for some mindless politically incorrect mayhem. But you say you've already played all the levels of Doom and Doom II: Hell on Earth? Fear not. An enterprising little company has gathered all of the extra playing levels created by Doom fans and tossed into the public domain. D Zone has 900 new levels of the games, plus a level editor and a few other utilities, while D Zone 2 is packed with 1,000 new levels. They require the commercial version of either Doom or Doom II. Although the levels are not all great, there's enough battleground to last till hell freezes over

D Zone and D Zone 2 / The WizardWorks Group / (612) 559-5140 / \$17 each, est. street price / Reader Service No. 718



HERETIC OOOOO If you're ready for more Doom

ka-boom but with different monsters, get Heretic. It's based on id Software's great 3-D graphics and has levels, monsters, and weapons that are as good as anything in Doom itself. If you thought wandering through dungeons was fun, wait till you get to fly. Hey, no taking that multimedia laptop to class!

Heretic / GT Interactive Software / (800) 341-1133 / 550 est. street price / Reader Service No. 719



KURT VONNEGUT'S SLAUGHTERHOUSE-

Of all Vonnegut's work, this novel sounds like the best match with the nonlinear interactive CD-ROM medium. After all, an encounter with aliens from Tralfalmador has left the protagonist of Slaughterhouse-Five unstuck in time. The story jumps about from flashback to flash-forward in the printed version, so what better way of presenting the novel than through a CD that lets you read in the original sequence or an entirely random order? Yep, it sounds good, alright. but it doesn't work. Vonnesut had a method behind the order he gave the scenes. But even if you wanted to make a case for serendipity in literature, this Windows CD should be a lot easier to navigate.

The interface itself seems to have been created at random. (T is the hotkey that opens the History window. Go figure.) You have to search high and low for the search function, and there's no consistent way to use the mouse. Somehow, they got Vonnegut to go along with this, He's in 30 videos, and he cackles like a madman. Get the paperback, because this CD proves one thing: They haven't found a good reason to replace all books with CDs.

Kurt Vonnegut's Slaughterhouse-Five / Byron Preiss Multimedia / (800) 482-3768 / \$40 est. street price / Reader Service No. 720



A Kurt Above: Videos of Vonnegut are the best reason to buy this CD.

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Computing's RF-50 Wireless Keyboard and receiver (above). Game players can try AlTech's Wireless Bandit (bottom right). MouseMan Cordless / Logitech / (800) 231-7717 / \$89 est. street price / Reader Service No. 721

RF-50 Wireless Keyboard / Wireless Computing / (214) 719-2515 / \$440 est, street price / Reader Service No. 722

Wireless Bandit / AlTech Int'l / (800) 882-8184 / \$69.95 est, street price (with Mortal Kombat) / Reader Service No. 723



No-Wire Networks: You've grown accustomed to connectivity. But networks need wires. Or do they? Apex's wireless PC Card cellular fax modem (bottom) keeps you plugged into the online world at 28.8Kbps, while Solectek's AirLAN CAN series (far-left group) offers the access point and adapters (PC Card or parallel port) to roam free and still retrieve e-mail and files from the network, Socket's PageCard (near left) acts as a full alphanumeric pager and beams messages to your mobile computer. Mobile Plus V.34 / Apex Data / (800) 841-2739 / 5399 est. street price / Reader Service No. 724

AirLAN Access Point / Solectek / (800) 437-1518 / \$2,499 list, plus separate adapters / Reader Service No. 72 s

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DUMB & DUMBER?

the Official Story: "[Microsoft has] decided to simplify the Exchange client and better target its functionality for the masses of Windows 95 users who simply want to send and receive electronic e-mail [sic].... [Usability] testing...indicated that the [Exchange] client was too complex for its principle [sic] usage—sending and

receiving e-mail...[T]he more complicated viewing functionality is being utilized by a small minority of users while confusing the majority" (*The Microsoft WinNews Electronic Newsletter*, May 15, 1995).

The Inside Story Was that Kato Kaclin we saw coming out of Microsoft's Usability Lab last May? Nah, probably not, though it wouldn't be a surprise—the Windows 95

marketeers seem determined to make it so doggone easy to use that even Kato and his smarter brother, Forrest Gump, could figure it out in an afternoon.

Don't get me wrong: Making computer power more accessible to novices is an admirable goal. But as Microsoft puts the finishing touches on Windows 95, it's becoming increasingly clear that you'll have to pay more—maybe a lot more—if you want the power version of Windows.

In the name of usability, Microsoft has slashed useful features out of Windows 95. Just look at the dumbing down of the Exchange mail client. It started as a powerful (and free) Windows 95 applet, with

options for grouping, sorting, and viewing mail from anywhere. All of those features were ripped out in a May purge, leaving behind a ho-hum (and still hard to use) mail utility. To get the real Exchange client, you'll have to take out your wallet.

Have It Their Way With the right DNA analysis, you could probably figure out what separates an experienced PC user from a novice user. Maybe it's the insatiable desire to rearrange everything on the desk-top. If you know what you're doing, you can reorder icons and menus so you're never more than a click or two from your most common apps and documents. That's the key to productivity, but it could also be aupport night.

a support night-mare when a Majority

It's Official: Circle August 24 on your calendar as the day Microsoft finally shrink-wraps its long-awaited product. Gold masters were due before the first of July.

new user stumbles across one of these chances to customize. True, but curiously, there are plenty of things you can customize on the Windows desktop—colors, sound, wallpaper, shortcut icons, even the typefaces in title bars.

Too bad the parts of the interface that actually help you get work done aren't this flexible. Take the shortcut menus that pop

up every time you right-mouse-buttonclick on an object. Wouldn't it be great if you could right-fick on a drive icon to start the Scandisk disk-analysis and repair tool? Sorry, those menus are unchangeable you'll have to right-click on the icon, pull up its properties sheet, click on the Icols tab, then find the button that opens the dialog box that controls the options that finally let you check the staxu of your hard disk.

And how about those toolbars? They're in every Explorer and folder window, in the Microsoft Network client, in WordPad, in Paint. You say you don't like the arrangement of the toolbars' buttons? Too bad, You can't change 'em anywhere except in the Exchange client. Oh, my mistake—

in the Exchange client. Oh, my mistake that feature was removed in the May purge. Majority Rules Microsoft claims that

the built-in Exchange client was gutted in the name of usability. Don't believe it. Microsoft Office's AutoText feature, which supposedly had new users throwing their hands up in despair, is one of the signature features of the suite. Users must get smarter when they buy Office.

And now that the grouping, sorting, and viewing are all gone, is Exchange easier to use? Hardly, You can see your mail in a simple list, period. If you want to find all the mail that Kato and Forrest have sent you since last July, you'll have to click at least 15 times in the confusing Find dialog box. That's hardly a truunph of usability.

If you don't like it, you can always buy the more powerful client software from Microsoft. Does an extra \$99 sound fair?

There are also all kinds of goodies in the extra-cost Microsoft Plus package. Don't be surprised to see similar packages show up every three to six months. For an extra 599 a few times a year, you'll get the Windows you really want. Eventually.

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